Lacson: Metro bombers Afghan-trained

STORY ON PAGE A2

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BALANCED NEWS, FEARLE

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WHAT'S INSIDE

- **Erap calls off talks with MILF** NEWS / A2
- **Pope issues new moral laws** WORLD / A10
- **People block 32 dump trucks** METRO / A17
- **In search of good news in M'nao** INQUIRER MINDANAO / A13

IN *Sunday*LIFESTYLE

- **Martin Nievera and Katrina Ojeda welcome the new year** / C6
- **Jueteng in the classroom**/ D1

THE NEW "Little President," Edgardo Angara, who was sworn in by President Estrada as his executive secretary on Saturday, is not little as he may become the de facto prime minister in a presidential system. DENNIS SABANGAN

Angara gets vast powers to run gov't

Estrada to focus on peace, order

By Amando Doronila and Donna Cueto

PRESIDENT Estrada yesterday swore in Edgardo Angara as executive secretary, with the understanding that he would cede sweeping powers that would make Angara a de facto prime minister responsible for running the government in a presidential system.

Mr. Estrada is said to have agreed to cede powers to demonstrate his determination to transform the Office of the President into a "modern" institution capable of acting expeditiously, "openly and transparently" in response to public demand for socioeconomic change and a wave of corruption scandals buffeting his administration.

Angara, 66, formerly agriculture secretary, also managed to put two of his people in two top Cabinet posts.

His protégé, Ma. Celia Fernandez, 29, was sworn in as head of the Presidential Management Staff (PMS), and his former undersecretary, Domingo Panganiban, succeeded him as agriculture secretary.

"We want to demonstrate to our people that even while the constitutional process (the President's impeachment trial) is ongoing, the business of government goes on. The deliv-

ANGARA/ A14

'They will even go after my mother'

By Donna S. Cueto

PRESIDENT Estrada yesterday lashed out at House prosecutors for dragging First Lady Dr. Luisa "Loi" Ejercito Estrada into his Senate impeachment trial, saying they were out to ruin not only him but his family as well.

The President also accused Ricardo Romulo, the new Equitable PCI Bank chair, of violating bank secrecy laws and conspiring with opposition groups to oust him.

Mr. Estrada said the opposition was likewise pressuring his defense lawyers and Cabinet officials to resign.

"You already know the real agenda of the opposition. If they can't destroy me, they'll discredit my family," he told Palace reporters.

"They'll even try to discredit my mother if they can. That's their agenda. To crush not only me but also my entire family," Mr. Estrada said.

Reporters sought his reaction on Saturday to the House prosecution's latest charge that an P8-million check from Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson was deposited in the First Lady's account with the Citibank branch in Greenhills, San Juan, on Oct. 4, 1999.

"I cannot speak on her behalf because it (the case) is in the impeachment court," the President said.

Singson had also testified that the First Lady accepted in August 1998 P20 million in cash that, ac-

THEY/ A7

Sacrifice of innocent for Christians, Muslims

Abu Sayyaf bandits are suspects in murder of Jolo missionary

By Ma. Ceres P. Doyo

IN AN alley in Barrio Ugong in Pasig hangs a streamer welcoming home, and bidding goodbye to, a humble son who served people with strange names and a strange language in a faraway place darkened by danger and unrest.

For seven years Fr. Benjie Inocencio, an Oblate of Mary Immaculate (OMI), lived what most would consider a difficult life among poor Christians and Muslims on a remote island named Mapun, an isle of twin lakes in the middle of the Sulu Sea.

There, he never feared for his safety. But last year, he was transferred to Jolo, a place that has come to evoke images of Abu Sayyaf kidnappers and hapless hostages trapped in thick jungle.

Still, for a priest long "marooned" on an islet even more isolated, backward and materially deprived than Jolo, the move must have seemed like a welcome change.

Fr. Benjie worked in Jolo for only six months. On Dec. 28, Feast of the Holy Innocents, he was gunned down near the Jolo cathedral. His driver, Domingo Pama Jr., was critically wounded.

The priest was out on an errand, preparing for the feast of the Hariraya, which marked the end of the Muslim Ramadan and happened to fall within the Christmas season. For the first time in his ministry, there would have been a joint celebration for the Muslim and Christian youth.

The killers of Fr. Benjie wanted to make sure that he and his driver would die, and so they shot them pointblank.

Pama, who is still in critical condition in a hospital near Sulu, told Fr. Romeo Villanueva, pastoral coordinator of the Vicariate of Jolo, that the two assailants suddenly boarded the jeep from behind and shot them both in the head around 10:15 a.m. on Holy Innocents' Day.

"Fr. Inocencio may have been shot

SACRIFICE/ A14

FATHER INOCENCIO lived up to his name.

Boy in blast to be gifted with artificial leg

Week after Metro terror: Funerals, reunions, new hopes

By Norman Bordadora and Jerome Aning

THREE-YEAR-OLD bombing survivor Joe Marwin Torlao has not only found his mother but may soon have an artificial limb to replace the one he lost in the Dec. 30 bombings.

He wants to leave his hospital bed, go home, and engage in fun and games with his playmates.

But life has radically changed for the child, who was reunited with his mother Rosalea on Thursday after almost a week alone at the Chinese General Hospital.

Yesterday, information officer Rosa Yap said the hospital would shoulder all the costs of his medical treatment, including the attachment of an artificial limb.

Joe Marwin lost his left leg when a bomb exploded in a Light Rail Transit coach near the LRT Blumentritt Station in Sta. Cruz, Manila. The explosion was one of five in Metro Manila on Dec. 30 that have killed 18 persons so far and injured close to 100.

The child also lost his father, Roweno, in the blast.

"At least he now has his mother to turn to," said one of the attending nurses.

"He would tell his mother that he wanted to go home, and that he wanted to play. I'm sad to say that with his condition, he won't be able to do so the way he used to," the nurse said.

A number of persons showed up at the hospital to claim Joe Marwin as their son after President Estrada offered to adopt him. But social and hospital workers are convinced that Rosalea is his real mother.

Social worker Anita Jimenez said she and her colleagues arrived at that conclusion not only because of the pictures and documents Rosalea had brought with her but also because of the interaction between mother and child.

Also, Jimenez said, "the boy cries whenever the mother leaves the room."

Rosalea told hospital authorities she did not know that her son was among those hurt in the LRT bombing.

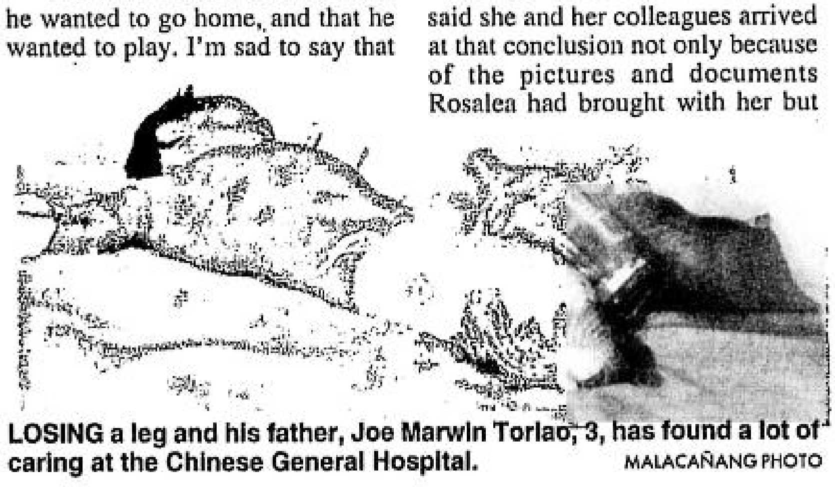
She said her family had no television set at their home in a squatter community in Bacoor, Cavite, but that ultimately she caught a glimpse of him on someone else's TV set.

Joe Marwin came to be known as "Emmanuel" because no one could identify him after almost a week.

Attending doctors might have mistakenly heard "Emmanuel" when they asked the boy his name while he was being treated for burns.

The boy's father, earlier thought

BOY/ A14



LOSING a leg and his father, Joe Marwin Torlao, 3, has found a lot of caring at the Chinese General Hospital. MALACAÑANG PHOTO

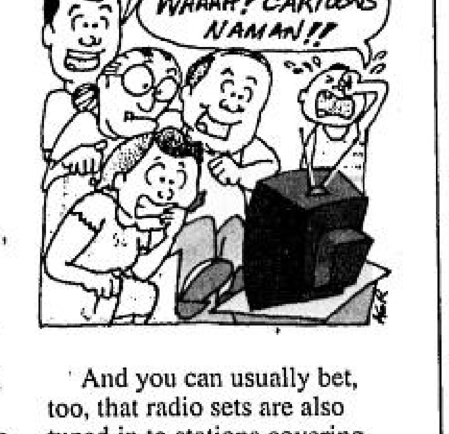
'Your honors, please, cartoons for a change'

By the PDI Mindanao Bureau

DAVAO CITY—We submit, your honor, that "Erap on Trial" has replaced "Rosalinda," HBO and Pinoy Blockbuster movies as the Filipino's program of choice.

We further stipulate, Mr. Chief Justice, that not only viewing habits but lifestyles nationwide have changed.

From slums to posh villages, street-side eateries to air-conditioned restaurants, in government offices, hospitals, airports, bus terminals, shopping malls and *sari-sari* stores, hotels, bowling centers and billiard halls, television sets are tuned in to the President's trial from 2 to 8 p.m. Monday to Friday.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WAAAH! CARTOONS NAMAN!!

And you can usually bet, too, that radio sets are also tuned in to stations covering the proceedings. Want a break from Estelito Mendoza and

YOUR/ A14

Second FRONT PAGE

SILA NA NAMAN ANG MAY KASALANAN?!

2 kids drown in fluvial parade

BUTUAN CITY—Two children died when an overloaded pumpboat capsized on the Agusan River in Barangay Ong Yui here during a fluvial procession Friday.

Chief Petty Officer Adelardo Hernandez, assistant commander of the Philippine Coast Guard station here, said the boat was approaching the Philippine Oil Depot port here when it capsized at about 3 p.m.

Hernandez said the boat was authorized to carry only 20 passengers but was loaded with around 50 persons, most of them children.

Ong Yui councilor Lilian Mandung said, however, the boat was carrying about 100 devotees of the Sto. Niño when the accident happened.

At 11 a.m. yesterday, the body of April Rey Darunday, 6, was found floating in the river at Barangay Port Puyohon here.

Earlier, Juliet Tempo, 8, was declared dead in a local hospital.

Hernandez blamed the organizers for the accident.

"If they had sought our permission, we wouldn't have allowed the children on board," he said.

Marlo Cudal, a survivor, said he saw one of the ship's crewmembers step on the outrigger of the boat followed by several others, causing the boat to tilt.

He said the passengers panicked and jumped into the river until the boat overturned. *Alden Pantaleon, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Lacson: Bombers Afghan-trained

MORO separatists who were trained in Afghanistan are responsible for five Dec. 30 bomb blasts which killed 22 people and injured more than 120 in Manila, according to Philippine National Police Director General Panfilo Lacson.

Still jittery from the blasts, police said they found and defused a powerful bomb a day earlier in Davao City. The bomb was attached to an alarm clock and packed in a box with five-centimeter nails at a shopping mall's checked-bag counter, PNP Senior Supt. Wilfredo Garcia said.

Lacson said he had recommended that leaders of the secessionist Moro Islamic Liberation Front be arrested despite a government move to suspend warrants as part of a confidence-building measure to encourage the rebels to resume peace talks.

On Friday, police charged MILF chair Salamat Hashim and six other rebel leaders and guerrillas with murder for allegedly masterminding the bombings of a commuter train, a bus, the airport, a park and an abandoned gasoline station.

Police have arrested one MILF member who allegedly acted as a Manila scout for the separatists, according to a police complaint filed with the Department of Justice.

MILF denial

Shariff Julabbi, a regional MILF leader, denied rebel involvement but said military camps in Manila could be targeted.

"Our fighters are busy fighting in the South and we don't have anything to do with the bombings in Manila," Julabbi said. "The call to *jihad* (holy war) is still in effect and the targets here are the military installations... not the civilians."

Opposition groups have accused President Estrada's allies of carrying out the blasts to divert attention from the President's impeachment trial in the Senate.

During President Estrada's weekly radio-TV program, Lacson said he expected the rebels to deny any role in the carnage because many of the mutilated victims were children.

"What happens is we always arrest the foot soldiers, but the leadership is intact," Lacson said. "Our recommendation is neutralize the leadership. If they are neutralized, there will be no one who will give direction and the bombings will stop."

President Estrada said he would meet the Cabinet's security committee to consider Lacson's recommendation.

"I have ordered a nationwide hunt to get all these culprits," he said. "We cannot tolerate this." *(See related story on this page.)*

Lacson said the bombings were carried out by a 12-man team belonging to a "special operations group" reporting directly to Salamat. He added that most of its members were trained in Afghanistan, but gave no details.

The rebels have acknowledged that many of them received military training in Afghanistan while fighting alongside Afghan Mujahedeen against the Soviets. Some training continued even after the Soviets were driven out of Afghanistan, they said.

Indonesia blasts

Meanwhile, Indonesian police said they were investigating claims that those responsible for a rash of Christmas Eve bombings in the predominantly Muslim country also were trained in Afghanistan. Officials in both nations said it was too early to link the attacks.

Indonesian police yesterday were investigating claims that three suspects in a string of deadly bombings of Christian churches on Christmas Eve were trained in terrorist tactics at a Mujahedeen camp in Afghanistan in the early 1990s.

Suspect Dedi Mulyadi told police that he and a second suspect, who was killed in one blast, as well as a third man who remained at large, were taught how to make bombs between 1990 and 1992, National Police spokesperson Saleh Saaf said.

He said it was too early to draw a direct link between terrorist groups in Indonesia and the Philippines.

"We are still investigating," he said, adding that Indonesian detectives had been sent to Manila, Singapore and Kuala Lumpur.

Lacson said government soldiers who overran an MILF camp in Mindanao in November recovered a document outlining a plan to bomb targets in the Manila area in December.

He said a car used in the bomb that went off near the Manila international airport on Dec. 30 had been traced to the MILF members.

"As investigators, we are 100 percent sure that the bombings were carried out by the MILF," Lacson said.

The MILF also was blamed for two mall bombings in the Manila area in May, which killed one person and injured 24.

At the time, the military claimed the MILF was retaliating for the loss of many of its camps in a massive military operation in Mindanao months earlier. Police later arrested 26 alleged MILF members, but their lawyers claimed they were fall guys. *AP, with a report from AFP*

Blast 'suspects' claim torture, to sue soldiers

BY ANDREA TRINIDAD-ECHAVEZ
AND PHILIP C. TUBEZA

AT LEAST four of the 20 men from Barangay Culiat, Quezon City, that the military arrested and later released were tortured, one of the men claimed yesterday.

Also yesterday, lawyers of the "Culiat 20" said they were preparing to file charges of illegal arrest and illegal detention against the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (Isafp) whose men conducted the raid in the Muslim community.

In the weekly Kapihan sa Cypress, 27-year-old Roman Salik claimed that shortly after the raid, he and the rest of the Culiat 20 were blindfolded as they were brought to the Isafp headquarters in Camp Aguinaldo.

Then the Isafp soldiers interrogated them and forced them to admit that they were behind the five bombings on Dec. 30, he said.

"He demanded that I admit that I was the one who bombed the LRT. When I refused, he punched me several times on the stomach, then tied and tightened a metal wire-noose on my neck," the 27-year-old janitor said, his voice cracking.

"But what will I admit? I had nothing to do with it," he maintained.

Salik said that at least three others later disclosed to him that they had also been tortured.

Estrada suspends talks with MILF

PRESIDENT Estrada said yesterday the government would suspend peace efforts with Moro rebels after police accused them of carrying out deadly bomb attacks in Manila a week ago.

"For now, we'll suspend that. Anyway, it was not (fully) started yet so there'll be ongoing operations against the MILF (the Moro Islamic Liberation Front)," Mr. Estrada said, referring to moves to reopen peace talks with the separatist group.

In Davao City, Sen. Gregorio Honasan yesterday cautioned the government against bringing charges against the MILF leadership as it would only stall efforts to bring back the rebel group to the negotiating table.

The President's statements came after police said they had proof linking the top leadership of the MILF to five bomb blasts that rocked Manila on Dec. 30, killing 22 people and injuring almost a hundred others.

"We cannot tolerate this. What they have done is a major blow not only in the lives of people but also in the livelihood of people, in terms of foreign investment, tourists and our economy," Mr. Estrada told reporters.

Speaking on a government television show, police chief Panfilo Lacson said the plan was to "neutralize the leadership" of the MILF, remarking that "we are arresting the foot soldiers but then the leadership is intact."

He added that he would ask the Cabinet to lift a suspension of arrest warrants against the MILF leadership when top security officials met with Estrada later yesterday.

Talks with the 13,000-strong MILF collapsed last year after the military overran most of the guerrillas' major camps and the government served arrest warrants on its leaders for allegedly planning a spate of bomb attacks in shopping malls that claimed one life.

However, the government has recently been making peace overtures to the group again, even suspending the arrest warrants.

But on Friday, police sought the filing of criminal charges against MILF chair Salamat Hashim, vice chairs Al Haj Murad and Ghadzali Jaafar and four other alleged MILF members for the Dec. 30 bombings.

Lacson said police had evidence against the MILF leadership, including a document captured by the military from an MILF camp in May detailing plans for more bomb attacks in Manila.

He said a car used in the bomb that went off near the Manila international airport on Dec. 30 had been traced to MILF members.

Lacson said they had reports the MILF was planning to move from Manila to stage bombing attacks in Cebu and Davao cities.

In Mindanao, Shariff Julabbi, a regional chair of the group, denied it was behind the attacks.

However, he admitted the MILF was willing to attack military installations in the capital.

Fear of further attacks remained high in the capital with many false alarms called over unattended bags and packages.

In a Manila shopping mall yesterday, police were called in after suspicions about a mysterious box shoppers feared might contain a bomb.

The box turned out to contain only textiles, radio reports said.

The opposition has charged that the bombs were intended to divert attention from President Estrada's impeachment trial in the Senate, which may see him removed from office.

Honasan said suing the MILF leaders would only harden their positions considering that the group, through its spokesperson Eid Kabalu, had already denied any involvement in the bombings.

Honasan held a consultation with the police-military-civilian Guardians Brotherhood Inc. fraternity at the University of South Eastern Philippines (USEP) in Davao City. *AFP with a report from Jowel F. Canuday, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

RP trench triggers more jolts

DAVAO CITY—Two mild earthquakes shook the city and neighboring provinces yesterday as ground movements along the Philippine Trench continued. There were no reported damage or casualties.

Yesterday's tremors were the sixth since Dec. 31.

On Jan. 1, a strong earthquake, registering a magnitude of 6.6. in the Richter scale drove a number of people into panic and left cracks in old buildings here and the provincial hospital in Mati, Davao Oriental.

But field officers from the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology office here assured the public had nothing to worry about the aftershocks of the New Year's Day quake. *Jowel Canuday, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

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Deputy ombudsman beats sex, graft raps

By Michael Lim Ubac

THE FORMER deputy ombudsman for the Visayas who was embroiled in a sex and corruption scandal in 1997 has been given a coat of Teflon by the Court of Appeals.

The appeals court dismissed the numerous criminal and administrative complaints lodged against former deputy ombudsman Arturo Mojica, saying impeachable officials like him should first be removed from office through impeachment before they were held for any wrongdoing.

Former solicitor general Francisco Chavez, Mojica's counsel, said in a statement yesterday that in issuing the order, the CA upheld Mojica's immunity from suit, which is enjoyed by all heads and deputies of constitutional bodies like the Ombudsman.

It was, however, unclear why the CA issued the ruling only on Dec. 18, when Mojica had already been retired for half a year.

A source at the CA said the ruling was still binding since it covered the decisions made by the Office of the Ombudsman on the cases lodged against Mojica when he was still a deputy ombudsman.

Null and void

Aside from dismissing the charges, Chavez said, the CA had already declared as null and void the docketing by Manila Ombudsman officials of the criminal and administrative cases against Mojica.

Thus, he said, all acts of orders of the Manila Ombudsman officials subjecting Mojica to criminal and administrative investigations or pursuant to such investigations were rendered invalid.

The CA issued the ruling based on a petition for certiorari filed by Mojica to assail the directives, orders and acts of the Office of the Ombudsman.

In asking for a certiorari, Mojica invoked the pertinent constitutional provisions on impeachable officials and relevant legislation like the Republic Act 6770 and the Ombudsman Act of 1989.

Precedents

Mojica also invoked CA's 1997 ruling on Lastimosa Dalawampu vs. Deputy Ombudsman Arturo Mojica, which cited the cases Cuenco vs. Fernan and Jarque vs. Desierto.

He pointed out that in those cases, the Supreme Court categorically stated that the "Ombudsman or Deputy Ombudsman must first be removed by way of impeachment before they may be held to answer for any wrong or behavior.

Chavez said, "The Court of Appeals ruled Mojica's petition 'meritorious' and held that it anchors its ruling on and has no choice but to adopt the Supreme Court's interpretation of the Constitution that a Deputy Ombudsman is an impeachable official in accordance with the 1987 constitution."

Last year, 22 lawyers or graft investigators in the Office of the Ombudsman for the Visayas threatened to go on mass leave if Ombudsman Aniano Desierto failed to investigate Mojica.

The lawyers accused Mojica of sexually harassing a female employee, mulcting money from confidential employees and delaying the release of their P7,200-yearend benefit.

Complaint

Gloria Lastimosa-Dalawampu, one of Mojica's alleged victims, complained about the latter's alleged sexual advances as early as May 5, 1997.

Dalawampu claimed that Mojica had persistently asked her for a "date" in 1996 when she was still a government prosecutor. She said that Mojica's persistent sexual advances forced her to resign in December 1996 and go into private practice.

Another female employee claimed she was given a "lascivious kiss" by Mojica in his private office.

Acting on the complaints, Desierto in January last year formed a "committee of peers" from Manila to investigate Mojica. To show that there were no "sacred cows" in the Office of the Ombudsman, Desierto relieved Mojica of his post and ordered him to report to the Ombudsman's main office in Manila.

But Mojica refused to do so, prompting Desierto to slap him with administrative sanctions. But even before the Ombudsman could finish its investigation, Mojica retired on July 6, 2000 after completing his seven-year term.

Townmates call Erap a disgrace to San Juan

By B. S. Rivera

BRAVING a backlash from what they described as a "vindictive political clan," residents of San Juan, Metro Manila, yesterday came out into the open to call for the resignation of the "biggest disgrace to our town."

In a visibly nervous gathering at the Mary the Queen parish hall, some 80 local residents—including former mayors Dolfo Sto. Domingo and Reynaldo San Pascual, Liwayway Vinzons-Chato and the prominent Arellano clan—showed up "to disprove that all of San Juan supports the President."

It was the first anti-Estrada group to emerge in the President's own backyard, where he ruled as the longest-serving mayor and where his son, Jinggoy, is on his last term as the local chief executive.

"You know how things are run here. A lot of people are scared to come forward," San Pascual said. "But we know in their hearts, they also want the President to step down," he added.

While admitting that Mr. Estrada "did so much for San Juan and cemented many roads" when he was mayor, San Pascual said that even then, the President was "not as clean as he claimed to be."

Mr. Estrada lists as his private residence his home on Polk Street in Barangay North Greenhills, which he shares with the First Lady, Dr. Loi Ejercito.

"It was very difficult to meet at first and organize," said a barangay official who asked not to be named.

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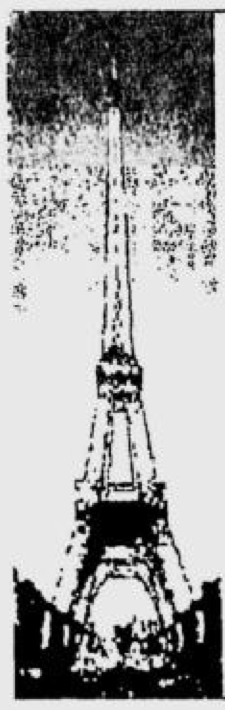

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Senator may summon Cebu trader

By Juliet L. Javellana

SENATE President Aquilino Pimentel Jr. yesterday asked a Cebu-based businessman Victor Jose Tan Uy to appear before the impeachment court to prove his claim that he is not the Eleuterio Tan who withdrew P90 million of the P130 million tobacco tax money allegedly given as kickback to President Estrada.

Pimentel said the impeachment court might have to summon Uy to testify after he reportedly issued a statement denying that he and Tan are one and the same person.

"The mystery is still there until Victor Jose Tan Uy shows up and gives his statement before the impeachment court," Pimentel said in his radio program.

Tan, along with two women named Alma Alfaro and Delia Rajas, could provide crucial testimony regarding the charge of graft and corruption, one of four articles of impeachment for which the President is being tried.

Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson had said that on instructions of Mr. Estrada's friend Charlie "Atong" Ang, he deposited in August 1998 P130 million to the newly opened accounts of Tan, Rajas and Alfaro. This was corroborated last Friday by Landbank Vigan branch manager Ma. Elizabeth Balagot.

Singson said he and Ang delivered to Mr. Estrada in his Polk Street, Greenhills residence the money which the President allegedly demanded as commission for the release of P200 million tobacco excise tax share of Ilocos Sur.

Last month, Pimentel told the impeachment court that the Senate blue ribbon committee found out that Tan could actually be Uy, who resides in Cebu City.

Women's groups honor 3 witnesses vs Estrada

By Andrea Trinidad-Echavez

THREE ordinary women who did something extraordinary when they dared to come out as witnesses against the highest official of the land—the President himself—at his impeachment trial for charges against the people and the Constitution.

For their display of exemplary courage, women's groups paid tribute to Ocampo, Lim and Itchon, and other women witnesses at the impeachment trial, for acts "worthy of emulation not only by women but by men."

At least 23 women's organizations led by Urduja and Gabriela came together last week to induct the three women to the Filipino Women's Hall of Fame.

"It is only fitting that Lim, Itchon, Ocampo and other women of courage be elevated to the Hall of Fame for putting their and their families' lives on the line for their convictions," said Gabriela secretary general Liza Maza, in the ceremony at the World Trade Center in Pasay City.

Maza noted that at the important junctures of the country's history, Filipino women unleashed admirable courage and determination. "Women figured prominently in the country's struggle to gain liberation," she said.

She said women stood up against the tyranny of Ferdinand Marcos when those in mass media led their colleagues in exposing the crimes and corruption of the dictatorship.

It was also the women of Namfrel who walked out to protest the fraudulent snap elections, she said, while tens of thousands of women took to the streets to call for the ouster of Marcos.

Organizers of the affair, dubbed "Tribute to the Women of Courage," said the women witnesses showed that ordinary citizens could do their part in pushing for change in a society suffering from moral degradation and corruption.

Gloria Golez, Urduja convenor, said the three women brought a spark of hope to the Filipino people in the midst of the crisis besetting the nation.

"May (their courage) kindle that flame of resolve in each of us and in our leaders to change our selfish, amoral ways, to choose to do what is right, and to challenge the indifferent, the skeptical and the uncommitted to follow their lead," she said.

Beaming almost throughout the two-hour affair, two of the "women of courage" in attendance expressed their gratitude to the women's groups, saying it was the kind of support that lifts their morale.

"It makes us forget all the hardships we have had to undergo for choosing to come out and tell the truth," Lim said.

Itchon said that while her family life has been greatly affected, she has no regrets. "It's worth the sacrifice. We are doing this for the country," she said.

Advance notice of layoffs required

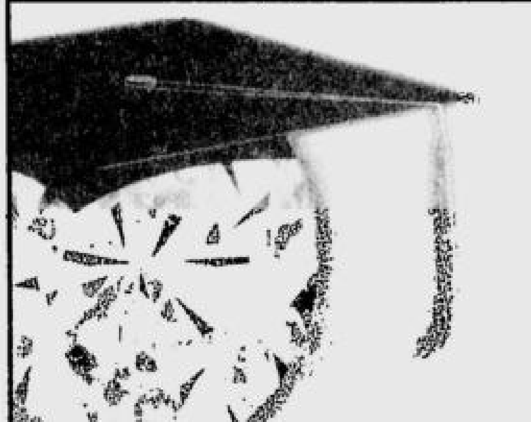
LABOR Secretary Bienvenido Laguesma yesterday asked employers to inform the Department of Labor and Employment of impending mass layoffs to give the government agency enough time to plan contingency measures for laid-off workers.

In a statement, Laguesma said the DOLE needs time to facilitate temporary and permanent employment opportunities for those who would be retrenched as a result of firms' cutting down on labor-related spending due to the continued plunge of the peso against the dollar and generally negative situation in the business community.

The DOLE maintains a database of job opportunities for those looking for employment here and abroad. It has taken on the task of helping the country's labor force find employment immediately especially in these times of threatening recession.

The labor secretary, on the other hand, encouraged businesses to heed proposals to implement a four-day workweek as a measure to cut down on labor costs while at the same retaining the opportunities for earning of the company's labor force.

Norman Bordadora



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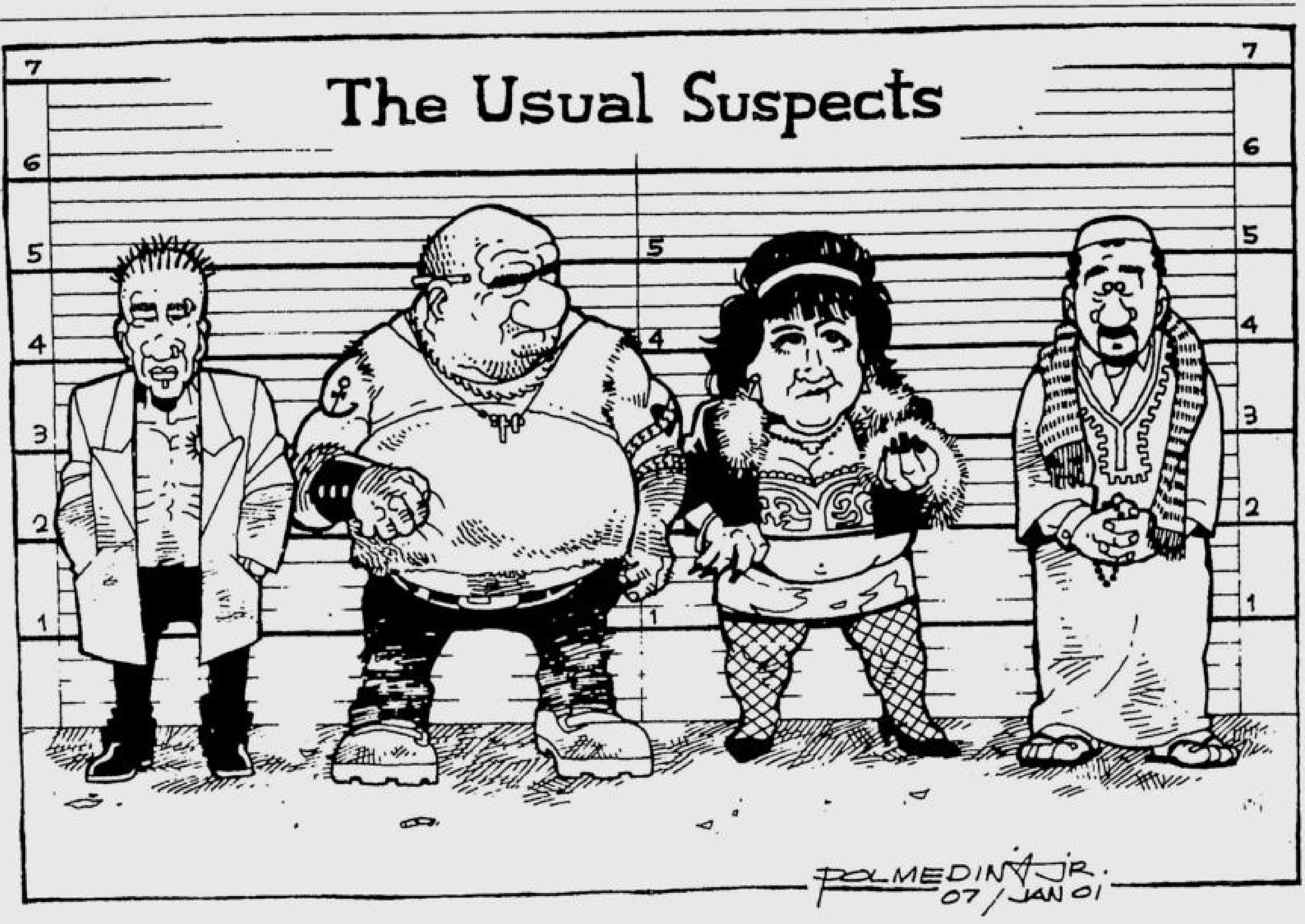

EDITORIALS

'Remarkable'

THIS was Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago's sarcastic remark after lawyer Jasmin Banal told her she had left a high-paying job in a law firm with presidential connections to accept a lower-paying job in another law firm where a senior partner is one of the leading lights of the Makati Business Club that has called for President Estrada's resignation.

Earlier, Santiago said Banal's disclosure that she was receiving a lower pay at her new job was "taxing our credulity." She explained that "the usual career path for us, UP law graduates" was to go from one job to another with pronounced improvement in financial rewards. She was, of course, suggesting that the real reason Banal moved to the new law firm was political. The senator was implying that Banal must be receiving generous pay for the alleged demolition job she was doing on behalf of the President's critics. To Santiago, either Banal was lying about her take-home pay or simply stupid.

Banal could have interjected right there and then that she was neither, that there were other more primordial considerations in taking a job, such as job fulfillment and relieving oneself of the unease of working for a crony law firm. But she restrained herself because being the lawyer that she is, she knew she could only answer questions, not volunteer explanations.

It was left for Senators Franklin Drilon and Raul Roco to check the dangerous implications of Santiago's comments. Drilon got Banal to inform the court that she joined the new law firm last June, some four months before even a whiff of the *jueteng* scandal was detected. And Roco got Banal to agree that law is a noble profession where financial considerations quite often take secondary importance.

Many have come to expect these parrying and give-and-take in what is otherwise a quasi-political, quasi-judicial proceeding. It was with shock then that Filipinos witnessed Santiago stand from her seat, march to the rostrum, and mouth frothing, protest Roco's questioning, as one that was a "colloquy" which, in the guise of eliciting answers from the witness, was really an effort to rebuff or reprove her. (Surprisingly, she did not take to task Drilon, her fellow Ilonggo and co-staffer at the UP Philippine Collegian, who, although less pointed and more savvy in his manner of questioning, had also committed the mortal sin of squeezing answers from the witness that disparaged or blunted the impact of Santiago's earlier leading questions. Was that because Roco is a Bicolano and a Bedan?)

More shocking, Santiago trained her ire on some persons in the gallery whom she accused of standing up and looking at her "provocatively" when Roco posed his questions. But how could she have felt harassed or threatened by people who were merely eager for senatorial wisdom? Psychologists have various terms for such obsessive fear or insecurity: dementia , paranoia, psychosis. The list is endless.

Miriam's chamber

PERHAPS even more shocking was the Senate's decision to take Santiago's side and throw the three persons out of the chamber without hearing their side. The decision was not only a blatant disregard of the minimum requirements of due process. It could also prefigure the mind-set of the Senate in deciding the impeachment case.

With her unusual outburst and the Senate's leadership attempt to appease her, Santiago has redefined decorum and etiquette in the impeachment court. She has shown that it is all right to harass and intimidate prosecution witnesses, cast suspicion on their motivations through a manner of questioning that is sarcastic and biting, as long as she is the one doing it. She has shown that her colleagues do not enjoy such privilege, and that the minute they partake of the privilege, they must be censured for discourtesy and lack of senatorial decorum.

The real verdict

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

IT'S clear that, whatever the results of the current impeachment trial will be, the Filipino people will continue to regard President Joseph Estrada with suspicion if not contempt. That will be the real verdict. His acquittal will not vindicate him as he hopes it will; it will only exacerbate the strong feelings of indignation against him. His conviction will affirm the enormous offenses he has committed against the nation. It will finally convince many of his loyal followers that they were wrong to trust him in the first place.

There will be the fanatics, of course, who will gloat if he is acquitted and protest if he is convicted. For them, it will always be Erap right or wrong. These are the unthinking dupes, the brainwashed from the regimented religions and the deluded poor, who will continue to offer him the blind allegiance that nurtures demagogues.

The rest of the people will not be similarly deceived. Many of them were fooled before, but the impeachment trial has opened their eyes to the many shortcomings of the leader to whom they had entrusted the steering of the ship of state. With him at the helm, it has foundered into perilous shoals and encountered dangerous reefs even as mighty waves continue to threaten to engulf it and plunge it into the ocean deep. But the ineptness of the sorry captain, it now appears, is not even his greatest fault.

The Articles of Impeachment denounce President Estrada for bribery, graft and corruption, betrayal of public trust and culpable violation of the Constitution. The House panel of prosecutors accuses him of stealing hundreds of millions of pesos in *jueteng* payola and the tobacco excise taxes, maintaining secret, billion-peso bank accounts from which he has acquired mansions for his several mistresses, falsifying his sworn statement of assets and liabilities, appointing his subordinates to multiple positions despite the constitutional prohibition, and other impeachable offenses.

The incredible revelations at the impeachment trial have betrayed another and darker facet of Mr. Estrada's persona. He had earlier been tolerantly considered only as a bumbling misfit, but it now appears he has more sinister sins than just incompetence. Now he is exposed before the whole nation as a scheming opportunist who, as early as two months only after assuming office as President of the Philippines, had already begun a secret scheme to amass a personal fortune at the expense of the people he had pledged to serve.

The testimony of Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson as his co-principal in the *jueteng* operations has the ring of truth even if, as the defense lawyers say, it comes from a polluted source. The corroborating witnesses are also believable. Emma Lim could not be tripped by Estelito Mendoza, who in fact strengthened her credibility. Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile tested another witness' memory ("Who was your first caller last Monday?" "My husband." "Who was your last caller?" "My daughter.") but retreated in embarrassment. Clarissa Ocampo was as steady as a rock. The defense lawyers and the "senator-judges" on their side tried their best to discredit the witnesses but everyone of them stood firm. It's really hard to confute as liars persons who are telling the truth.

What to do then? If you cannot destroy the credibility of the other party's evidence, you can prevent its admission by claiming it is immaterial and irrelevant.

The defense is arguing that much of the evidence offered by the prosecution is not admissible because they relate to matters not alleged in the Articles of Impeachment. The wherewithal of the Boracay mansion allegedly occupied by one of Erap's mistresses is not material and relevant because the said property is not covered by the specific charges and not even listed in the annexes. The same argument is raised to block other similarly damning evidence against the President, like the real identity and account of Jose Velarde, who is not really that mysterious.

The defense has taken the line that impeachment proceedings are in the nature of a criminal trial where the rules of procedure are to be strictly applied in favor of the accused. Furthermore, the quantum of evidence required is proof beyond reasonable doubt in line with his constitutional presumption of innocence. It is argued that since the evidence of the prosecution does not refer to offenses specifically alleged, its admission will deny the accused due process by preventing him from defending himself against *unknown* charges.

How naïve can one get? In the first place, only the defense cannot or will not see that the specific charges are covered by the allegations in the Articles of Impeachment. In the second place, even if they were not, a liberal construction of the Senate impeachment rules, and the Rules of Court, should justify the admission of such evidence in the interest of discovering the simple *truth*. After all, what we're after in the impeachment trial is not the robot-like observance of the rules applicable to a strictly judicial proceeding. Our objective is the ascertainment of whether the President of the Philippines is innocent or guilty of the charges against him.

The best argument that the impeachment trial is not a judicial proceeding, and much less a criminal case, is the fact that the senators sitting as judges are not judges and may not even be lawyers.

The chief justice is presiding at the current proceeding only because the President is on trial; all other impeachment cases will be presided by the Senate president, who may not even be a high school graduate. Furthermore, the Constitution provides that in case of conviction, the respondent will still be "subject to prosecution, trial and punishment," in a subsequent criminal case. That is where all the constitutional rights of the accused will be strictly enforced.

Some observers have pointed out that in my book on political law I describe the impeachment trial as a judicial process of a criminal nature where all the constitutional rights of the accused should be observed. I find on second thought that I'm only partly correct. This only shows I'm also prone to some mistakes, as when I voted for some of the senators now acting as judges but openly defending Mr. Estrada. Remembering Ralph Waldo Emerson's remark that "a foolish consistency is the hobgoblin of small minds," I would be foolishly consistent if I were to vote for them again.

Led by a star

MOMENTS

Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD

THERE is no truth to the rumor that the three magi almost did not make it to the manger this year because they were suspected of carrying bombs. When they finally reached the manger, they came empty-handed because their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh had been confiscated by the authorities. With or without gifts, they were warmly welcomed by the Holy Family.

Rumor or not, the whole point is that we can come to the Lord whoever we are, as we are. No gifts required. Just bring your heart. Just give your heart, whatever heart you have.

* * *

This is a long shot, but if by chance the planners, organizers and implementors of the Dec. 30 bombings will get to read this column, I want you to know that you have displeased and angered God with your dastardly act. I want you to know that you have killed innocent people and destroyed lives. I want you to know that divine justice will catch up with you. I want to remind you that it is not worth it all. What for? Just for some more money? For power? What will it profit you if by doing this act, you will earn more millions or will have more power, and in the end lose your soul? Think about it. Listen to your conscience. Listen to your heart. Listen to your children and grandchildren…A humbled and contrite heart is all that is asked of you. Repent and stop the bombings.

* * *

This too is a long shot, but in my disgust, anger and helplessness, I prayed to God *na sana mamaga na ang mga kamay at mukha ng mga taong may kagagawan ng* bombings. Amen!

* * *

Still on rumors, there is no truth to the rumor that the three magi were evicted from the premises of the manger because they were looking at Mama Mary in a provocative way.

* * *

The Holy Family had nothing. They were defenseless and vulnerable. They were open to anything and to anyone. They were not threatened by anything or by anyone. Nothing and no one disturbed them or provoked them. Maybe it is because they had nothing that they were not provoked by anything or anyone. All they had was peace and love, and so, nothing, no one provoked, threatened or disturbed them. And of course, they had God. And that was enough. The problem comes when we never have enough.

* * *

There are actually four kings mentioned in today's Gospel (Mt. 2, 1-12). Herod could have become one of the famous three kings. His mistake was that he did not personally go out and search for the Messiah. He delegated the three to go and search for the Baby Jesus with the instruction that they go back and report to him.

No one can search God for you. The search for God is something personal and non-transferable. You cannot delegate your religious duties and obligations to others. Neither can you blame others if you don't have God in your life. Your advisers and lawyers can only advise you. In the end, you go it alone, face to face, heart to heart, your God and you.

* * *

The magi were led by a star to the place where Jesus was born. Someone commented that we, too, in the Philippines are led by a star—a former movie star. But where has he led us?

* * *

The Epiphany means the revelation of God's plan of salvation for all of us. It is a good reminder that God has a wonderful plan in all that is happening in our country. It is also an affirmation of God's sure presence in our history and in our lives. Rest assured, as the impeachment trial unfolds, more facts and personalities will be revealed, all leading toward the victory of God's kingdom of truth, justice and peace. *Abangan ang susunod na* revelation!

* * *

It is good to look back, remember and acknowledge people who have been our guiding stars and have led us through all these years. There are people who really inspire and encourage us to keep on going. One such person is Fr. Tony Pernia, SVD, the first Asian, the first Filipino SVD to become superior general of the Society of the Divine Word, a religious-missionary congregation with about 6,000 members working in 45 countries worldwide. Father Pernia is in town and will be with us tomorrow at Christ the King Seminary. He is one guy who is brilliant and bright, but remains "a humble and regular guy." I guess that's the secret of the magi, and of Father Pernia for that matter: humility. They do not let their brightness and brilliance outshine the brightness and the brilliance of the Guiding Star. Trouble comes when we begin to think we are the source of light and forget that we are just reflectors of the light. Trouble multiplies when we start to think that we are stars—unreachable, indispensable, unimpeachable.

* * *

A moment with the Lord:

Lord, you are my Guiding Star. Lead the way. May I continue to reflect your light as I go on in life. Amen.

Loss of credibility

COMMENTARY

Nono Alfonso, S.J.
Institute on Church and Social Issues

ECONOMIC Planning Secretary Felipe Medalla's brave statement the other week that it would now be difficult for President Estrada to govern the country because of a looming crisis of confidence in the political leadership is proving to be a truthful assessment of the way things are. And if the President still does not understand the implications of this loss of credibility or moral ascendancy, he need only observe the reactions of people in the aftermath of the recent bombings that hit Manila: Many right away rejected all of Malacañang's attempt to explain what happened and in fact were pointing to the Palace as the culprit behind this dastardly act. Others are going ahead of any government investigation and are mind-guessing the usual alibis or script of Malacañang: it's either the Left or the Muslims. Worse, some are seeing or reading into these bombings a conspiracy and a pretext to make way for a declaration of martial law.

As a result of all this mind-guessing, people are now panicking. For them, it is no longer important whether the theories and the guesses are true, baseless or simply false. Clearly, what we have here is a serious case of a government's loss of credibility. It is a crisis of confidence that may prove detrimental not only to the Estrada presidency but to Philippine democracy in the long term.

Yet even if it is sad that no thinking individual believes Malacañang on such an urgent issue at such a crucial time, the administration has only itself to blame for this loss of trust or credibility. Admittedly, at the start of "Juetengate," many still gave the President the benefit of the doubt. However, as the impeachment trial unfolded and revealed the intricacies of Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson's sordid tale, more and more people have come to believe that the President, as it were, is guilty as charged.

Still, what did not help the President's case was his priceless armada of PR groups, "envelopmental" journalists, and spin doctors who tried to prop up the sagging popularity and public image of the President and discredit the opposition and citizens' movement against him.

It all started with the photo ops of President Estrada visiting urban slums and rural areas and promising or giving land titles, which later proved to be illegal. The objective was to show that the President was not affected by the controversy and that it was "business was usual" in Malacañang. It was also meant to galvanize the support of the President's supposed bailiwick in the *masa* who elected him to power. Surveys, which before only came out twice a year, also appeared in succession to prove this *masa* constituency of the President. Later, the slant of the stories that came from Malacañang was that of a repentant President. But when this failed, too, Malacañang's spin doctors went on the offensive.

Who could forget the President's TV appearance and the dramatic show of force of the PNP and the AFP, which was obviously meant to scare the populace? Contrary, however, to this desired effect, the telecast only incensed and infuriated the public. Not easily forgotten, too, was the 30-minute TV and radio documentary that praised to high heavens the meager achievements of the Estrada presidency and "exposed" the irregularities of the Aquino and Ramos administrations before it.

As the impeachment trial intensifies and credible witnesses corroborate Singson's story, Malacañang is once again on the defensive, explaining away the truths that are being unraveled. In the process, many times, it has been found to be contradicting itself, if not brazenly lying. For instance, then Executive Secretary Ronaldo Zamora claimed that he had spoken to former Chief of Staff Aprodicio Laquian who told him that he never saw the President signing any document as Jose Velarde. With the advent of the election period, Press Secretary Dong Puno and Zamora found an escape hatch from all the heat in Malacañang, and left a neophyte in Mike Toledo with the yeoman's job of being the President's mouthpiece.

The would-be press secretary seems to be comfortable facing the media and seems to be enjoying his job, listening to himself and being impressed with his eloquence. But the stoic face betrays a lack of depth and wisdom and inspires no respect or confidence.

And so comes now to the rescue, Ambassador Ernie Maceda, the President's party mate, who, ironically, in his years as senator, had earned the monicker "Mr. Exposé" for exploding exposés of controversial issues, including at one time the involvement of the military in *jueteng* operations in Luzon. Malacañang hopes that the veteran Maceda will give the President a more coherent voice in the ongoing crisis.

What it fails to realize, however, is that not even the experienced Maceda can save it now. As we have already seen, not even the genius or savvy of an Estelito Mendoza could budge or intimidate a credible witness like Emma Lim, which is usually the case with people who are on the side of the truth. All of Malacañang's propaganda or psy war can only backfire. For one thing, all its propaganda ploys only insult the IQ and the capacity of people to discern the facts and the truth. Malacañang must think that the Filipinos are so stupid that they cannot see through all the lies, half-truths, cover-ups and disinformation it is spreading around. But as the saying goes, you can fool all the people some of the time, you can fool some of the people all of the time, but you cannot fool all of the people all of the time.

More importantly, however, the victim of all these is our fledgling and doddering democracy. Truth is the foundation of any democracy. This is the reason the Constitution guarantees the people's right to information and education and the freedom of the press. The truth is very important because no society can develop and flourish on lies or ignorance. The Marcos dictatorship fell because of the big lie that was "Bagong Lipunan." Now President Estrada is going the same route with the Jose Velarde story. All the lying in government has only eroded his already damaged credibility. Even if he is acquitted, amid a skeptical, incredulous and cynical populace, he has become a lame-duck President.

There is an old Filipino saying that Mr. Estrada might have forgotten: "*Pagsasabi ng tapat, pagsasama ng maluwat.*"

The new Kim

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

HERS is a rags-to-riches tale, shooting up from obscurity to a role in an overseas production of "Miss Saigon" and then coming home as the alternate to Lea Salonga, the original "Kim" of this hit international musical.

Cez Campos seemed to labor perpetually in Salonga's shadow, who by rights had a franchise on Kim, having originated the role, and shaping any future interpretations of the young Vietnamese prostitute.

But now that Salonga has left for New York, where she will "close" the Broadway production of "Miss Saigon," Campos has all the room she needs to maneuver and prove her own worth as a singer, actor and stage performer.

In Tuesday's evening performance, Campos proved a worthy Kim. While she may lack the dulcet tones that makes Salonga's notes soar, she carries off the challenging singing parts creditably. But it is as an actor that she truly shines, bringing to Kim strength and ferocity of spirit, especially in those scenes when she defends her son from Thuy, her vengeful exfiancé.

Indeed, Tuesday seemed to be a night for the alternates, which made the high caliber of the performances all the more remarkable.

Essaying the role of the Engineer was Jon-jon Briones, who more than filled the shoes of the renowned Leo Valdes (who curiously is now addressed as "Leo Tavarro Valdes" in the program). With the departure of Robert Sena, Arvin Quirante now undertakes the smoldering role of Thuy. But the most remarkable appearance was that of Menchu Launchengco Yulo as Ellen, the American wife of Kim's GI lover.

* * *

TRULY astounding is how each successive engineer I have watched has stamped his own signature on the role. Junix Inocian, whom I saw in London, was oily and scheming. Valdez brought a certain "sweetness" and sympathy even to the smarmy pimp. Briones tends to highlight the comic aspects of the role, running away with his scenes. All three, though, certainly sang the role better than Jonathan Pryce, at least judging from the original cast album.

I don't know, I must still be fixated on Sena, who has seemingly claimed a franchise, and rightly, too on the role of Thuy. But I couldn't be convinced about Quirante's interpretation. I thought his voice was in danger of breaking several times, and he doesn't quite have the same intensity and brooding menace of his predecessor.

Menchu Lauchengco Yulo was a revelation, and proved you don't have to be the right race to bring a character to life. As the wife caught between her love for her husband and her sympathies for another woman, she credibly delivers her songs with sharply delineated emotions.

I'd heard on the grapevine that ticket sales had fallen sharply, and not just because of Salonga's departure. After all, "Miss Saigon" has gotten caught up as well in the turmoil of the "resign" protests and impeachment trial. And the Dec. 30 bombings could not possibly have helped sell more tickets.

So I can well understand if everyone on "Miss Saigon" feels the pressure to finish its Manila run with theaters full. No one feels the "heat in Saigon" more than Campos, I'm sure, though it is an unfair imposition. But she need not worry, nor do audiences have cause for concern.

Campos makes not just an adequate Kim, but a Kim whose humanity and strength shines through the rather tacky and, let's face it, colonial story line. If you have the means and the desire to watch "Miss Saigon" but have been having second thoughts because Salonga's no longer there, then shame on you. I'd seen a Salonga performance, but I wanted to see how Campos fared and was curious about another "take" on the role. I went home entertained and with a just a little bit more insight and understanding of the forces that drove Kim to her tragic end. Thanks to Campos.

* * *

ABANSE! Pinay, the only women's party-list group to win the necessary number of votes for a seat in Congress in the 1998 elections, has chosen its nominees for this year's polls.

At the National Council Meeting held Friday at the Titus Brandsma House, the chapter heads and representatives of member organizations chose the top three nominees: Ging Quintos Deles, Rep. Pat Sarenas and Alice Morada. The other nominees are: Dr. Nitz Chauhan, Celia Flor and Andrea Lizares-Si.

Deles is currently executive director of the Gaston Z. Ortigas Peace Institute, convenor of the National Peace Conference, and one of Pilipina's "founding mothers." These days, though, she is best known as one of the civil society complainants in the impeachment case against President Estrada and a leading light in Kompil II. Sarenas is the concurrent Abanse! Pinay party-list representative. Based in Davao, she is a well-known figure in NGO circles and is to be credited for having shepherded the passage of the Anti-Trafficking measure through the House as well as for initiating numerous gender-sensitive programs within the chamber as well. Morada is a Cebu-based lawyer, mother of four and, she is proud to proclaim, grandmother of one. She hails from a political family in Leyte, and has lived in various parts of the country. She is also quite active as an advocate for women's legal rights.

Dr. Chauhan is based in Cabanatuan City but travels throughout the province as head of the extension arm of a state university. She is also a leading authority on gender issues in her region. Flor is a two-term councilor in the Bacolod city council who made a name as a feminist activist. Lizares-Si is a lawyer, mother of seven, and also quite active in the Bacolod "Resign" movement. As you can see, Abanse! Pinay's nominees are all highly qualified, competent, courageous and principled women. We are justifiably proud of them, and so we hope you remember Abanse! Pinay come election time.

Truth-telling in a televised trial

PUBLIC LIVES

Randy David

EVERY witness who appeared at the ongoing presidential impeachment trial was made to swear "to tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth." Yet if there is anything that one learns from watching the trial, it is precisely that witnesses are not always free to tell the truth they want to tell.

Many truths cannot be bared because they are not "material" or "relevant" to the charges and allegations found in the Articles of Impeachment. Some truths are only "conditionally admitted"; the witnesses are permitted to tell them but their significance is suspended until their connection to the charges is fully established. The task of deciding which truths are relevant falls on the presiding officer of the court, Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr.

This selective admission of the truth in court proceedings is founded on the principle of fairness. In our system, an accused person has rights. He must be informed of all the specific allegations against him so that he may prepare his defense beforehand. At the minimum, he is also entitled to keep private those truths about his life that have no relevance to the offense for which he is charged.

In ordinary criminal trials, the rules are pretty straightforward, allowing little room for discretion and error. Still, so much depends on the alertness and wisdom of the judge.

The impeachment of a president, however, is anything but ordinary. The Senate, a political body, is transformed into a court, and the senators assume the role of judges. The chief justice of the Supreme Court presides over the trial and maintains order, but he does not vote. He decides, among other things, on questions of relevance and materiality, but his ruling may be overturned by a majority of the senator-judges. Most importantly, the entire trial unfolds before television cameras.

In its first two weeks, the impeachment trial closely followed the model of a criminal trial. The lawyers of both panels treaded very carefully in order to avoid objections. The presiding officer sustained many objections to what were regarded as unfair questions. Several times he admonished counsels to go straight to the point and to lay the basis for their questions. One wondered if the truth stood any chance under such a regime of legal form.

But something happened on the 13th day of the trial, toward the end of Equitable PCI Bank officer Clarissa Ocampo's testimony. The atmosphere in the court dramatically changed when it was the turn of the senator-judges to ask "clarificatory" questions. It was as if a veil of silence had been ordered lifted. No objections were raised by the defense. No questions were barred, and no truths disallowed. For the first time since the trial began, the truth flowed freely.

The shift, in my view, is a timely acknowledgement of the public character of the trial. A nationally televised trial like this cannot be seen as shackling the truth in a chain of procedural norms. The nation wants to know the whole truth about presidential behavior, and not just whether the prosecution can present enough evidence to warrant his removal from office.

There is, of course, a danger in allowing the truth to be told, only to exclude it later on the ground that it is irrelevant to the case at hand. The court may be able to admonish the senator-judges to ignore such evidence when they form their judgement. But can it tell the public to erase from their consciousness what they now know about their President?

Suppose the evidence of the "Jose Velarde" account is stricken off the record simply because there was no mention of the existence of such an account in the Articles of Impeachment. Would the public then be advised to forget Ocampo's powerful testimony that the President maintained an account under a fictitious name in order to hide sums of money manifestly out of proportion to his legitimate income? Would the Filipino nation continue to trust such a President?

The defense panel reminds the senator-judges to confine themselves to the legally admitted evidence. It has tried to impugn the credibility of the main witness, Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson, and the women witnesses who corroborated his testimony. What it is unable to challenge, however, it has tried vigorously to exclude. It has, for instance, continuously objected to the evidence and testimony given by patently credible witnesses like Ocampo, Rufo Colayco and Manuel Curato. It is clearly preparing the ground for an acquittal based on a technicality rather than on substantive evidence.

By a minority vote and on the basis of a technicality, Joseph Estrada may well escape conviction. But the many truths that have been revealed about his corrupt ways, whether or not these are covered by the Articles of Impeachment, have already destroyed his standing as President of the Republic. He has no face left to show before the world community. The truth has caught up with him, but he clings stubbornly to an office he has dishonored. And he has become desperate.

It is against this background that we must view the Dec. 30 bombings. To the extent that they tap into the basic insecurity of Filipinos during moments of crisis, the bombings may be seen as an attempt to pre-empt the public outrage that is expected to greet an unjust acquittal. Yet the demonstrations have shown that the resistance to Estrada will continue for as long as he is President. That is why I fear an acquittal may plunge the country into a deep political crisis from which it may not recover for a long time.

* * *

Comments are welcome at rdavid@pacific.net.ph

Beyond analysis, beyond rationality

OUTLOOK

Rigoberto Tiglao

MANY analysts were wrong when they predicted that President Estrada would be gone by now. A political-analysis update of the Economist Intelligence Unit's local affiliate, for instance, had the headline: "It's (almost) over." That issue came out on Nov. 6, and, indeed, with the defections of key political leaders from Estrada's camp a week before and the massive Edsa rally two days earlier, it seemed that the Estrada administration wouldn't see Christmas.

Former President Fidel Ramos gave Estrada a Dec. 21 "deadline" to reform. Read between the lines, and one can see this was Ramos' own forecast of when Estrada would fall.

Estrada may be beyond analysis. So much so that one explanation being given in coffee-shop circles is that Estrada indeed had wanted to resign by Christmas, but Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile convinced him to stay, giving him all the, well, legal-gobbledygook explanations that he'd be acquitted.

Consider what happened last month: When political uncertainty sent business confidence down to the cellar, Estrada threatened the country's big businessmen. He declared just before New Year's Day that he'd expose big companies which have huge debts from government corporations. The obvious threat: Just wait, we'll tighten the screws on payment of these debts.

He has also accused Ricardo Romulo, now chair of the country's third biggest bank and one of the most respected business leaders in the country, and the bank itself, of plotting to force him out of office.

While testimony after testimony and evidence after evidence have been piling up to prove the corruption charges, he hasn't really responded at all to the accusations.

Estrada's standard line now: "I leave it to my lawyers." His lawyers' standard line now: "The testimonies and evidence are immaterial." The explanation he gives in his speeches: "As in my movies, the hero is beaten up throughout the film, but in the end, he is victorious."

Three hours after the ruthless Dec. 30 bombing, he went on the air to declare that the perpetrators had a "political agenda." While Estrada didn't explain what he meant, his spokespersons did. That it was the Abu Sayyaf and the communists who did the bombings, in a bid to push Estrada out of office. His spokesperson for the impeachment trial, Ernesto Maceda, added that "rightists" in the military were involved.

At a time when nearly all genuine civil-society organizations and most of the country's respected political leaders are asking him to step down, when the kindest one can say of him—as Economic Planning Secretary Felipe Medalla in fact did—is that he can no longer govern with the country now deeply divided because of the charges against him, when the only way to restore business confidence now is a change in government, Estrada is digging in.

Talk to people loyal to Estrada (as we have done lately), and you'll find their explanation beyond rationality. Their main theme—almost their article of faith—is: "This is all Fidel Ramos' and Corazon Aquino's plot, and Vice President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo is merely their stooge."

"Estrada's better than Macapagal, and anybody but her ought to be president," says a board member of the United Coconut Planters Bank who is close to Estrada's mistress, Guia Gomez.

One Estrada loyalist simply banked on faith. "Just wait," he said. "Estrada's lawyers will prove all the allegations wrong."

Wilfredo Villarama, president of his cousin Mark Jimenez's Manila Times and a long-time aide of Sen. Blas Ople, even takes refuge in democratic ideals. "If Estrada is ousted," he warns, "it's the end of democracy, and we'll be a banana republic." He adds that Estrada's resignation would establish a precedent, so that all future Philippine presidents won't have any security of tenure, and we'll be throwing to the trash can our Constitution.

Agrarian Reform Secretary Horacio Morales and Edicio de la Torre, who emceed a pro-Estrada rally, are telling their NGOs that the momentum of pro-poor reforms in the past two years will be stalled under a Macapagal presidency. After all, the two are saying, it is only under Estrada that the government is pressuring real agrarian reform, even for the Cojuangco-owned Hacienda Luisita.

What takes the cake though is the explanation of Budget Secretary Benjamin Diokno, an economist with a Ph.D. During Estrada's "Jeep ni Erap" television program, he said all the indicators show that the economy under Estrada has been robust.

Unlucky country

To say that we've been unlucky may even be an understatement. Take a look at what's happened in the last two decades:

The world debt crisis broke out in 1983, throwing the global economy into a recession. That very same year in August, Ninoy Aquino was assassinated, triggering a political crisis and thus creating a double whammy that brought the economy to its knees. It took more than five years for the economy to really recover.

When the Asian economy was soaring starting in 1986, when Japanese investments began its migration to East Asian countries, the kidnapping of the Japanese executive Wakaoji and the coup attempts against Corazon Aquino's administration, scared foreign investors away.

The economy was building up momentum starting 1992, not only because of President Fidel Ramos' reforms but because of the phenomenal, uninterrupted expansion of the US and European economies. But in 1997, the Asian financial crisis hit.

The US economy is slowing down, with many economies even forecasting a recession. That will hit Asia hard, and the Philippines especially since most of our electronic and chip exports—which account for 60 percent of our shipments—are dependent on the US market. And this is happening just when we're going through our Estrada-created political crisis.

* * *

This paper's website (www.inquirer.net) starting Thursday afternoon ran an online poll asking the question: "After the evidence and arguments presented in 15 days of the impeachment trial, do you think President Estrada should be: (a) convicted; (b) acquitted; (c) 'too early to say.'"

As of this writing, Saturday noon, 89 percent, or 3,415 of the 3,850 respondents think that Estrada should be convicted. Only 215 respondents or 7 percent think he ought to be acquitted.

* * *

One e-mailer is intrigued by President Estrada's statement right after the Dec. 30 bombing. Estrada said: "*Gawain ito ng mga duwag at desperado....kahit manganib ang buhay ng mga kapwa* (This is the work of cowards and the desperate...even if it threatened the lives of their fellow men)." The fellow asks: "Why did Estrada use 'threaten'? It had already been reported at the time Estrada made the statement that 11 people were killed. Was Estrada just misinformed? It would have been an accurate statement if the bombs merely scared people instead of killing them."

* * *

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IN DEPTH

LEAH P. MAKABENTA, Editor

DIVESTMENT WOES

Private water: a matter of life and debt

BY LEAH P. MAKABENTA

FOUR years after the drumbeats have subsided over the privatization of water services, one of the winning concessionaires is now engaged in a ticklish campaign with government regulators that could spell life or death for its 4.5 million customers.

The Maynilad Water Services Inc. says it has lost so much money from exchange rate fluctuations, it wants not only to increase its rates but is asking that it be granted an automatic currency exchange rate adjustment (CERA) mechanism similar to that being enjoyed by other utilities.

Maynilad president Rafael Alunan, calling on the considerable goodwill built fom his days in the anti-Marcos movement and as Interior and Local Governments Secretary during the Ramos administration, has been campaigning for public support through hearings and consultations for its CERA petition. Failing to get which, he strongly suggests, Maynilad would withdraw and return the concession.

It's done all the time, of course. A business organization tells the public that its own interests and that of the country as a whole would be best served by a move to raise prices. It also often happens that in the face of pointblank protest, the business responds in strong language and a veiled threat.

In this case, however, the business in question is a public utility that is also a natural monopoly.

As defined by economists, natural monopolies are industries which require very high volumes to achieve economies of scale. As it would be very impractical to have more than one supplier operating such services, the job of running these monopolies has been assumed by governments.

With competitive pressures necessitating a shift from public to private operation of these infrastructure monopolies, pricing decisions will always raise equity concerns as the consumer has no say in how costs should be shared or in exiting the service.

Notoriously inefficient

In the aftermath of the 1986 Edsa Revolution and international trends towards privatization, the government moved to privatize the operations of the notoriously inefficient Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) monopoly.

Privatization, a showpiece of the post-Edsa Aquino and Ramos presidencies, was adopted as a way to return corrupt state enterprises to the discipline of market forces. It was thought that divestment would widen markets, create employee shareholders and divorce government from patronage.

When privatization of MWSS was first broached in 1994, the MWSS was supplying water to only two-thirds of its coverage population for an average of only 16 hours a day. Out of the roughly 3,000 million liters per day that it generated from the Angat reservoir, more than 50 percent was lost as non-revenue water, or water that was not actually billed. As for sewerage, MWSS serviced only 10 percent of the population it was supposed to cover.

In March 1996, President Ramos issued Executive Order No. 311 which paved the way for the private sector to take over the MWSS' services in what was billed as the "largest water privatization" undertaking in the world.

Under a system drawn up by the International Finance Corp., a World Bank subsidiary, Metropolitan Manila was divided into two franchise areas which private operators were asked to bid for the right to operate according to specific performance criteria. These included upgrading the water distribution system, offering affordable water rates and reducing the amount of billed water.

Maynilad, a part of the Lopez Group, won the right to take over MWSS operations in the West Zone for a period of 25 years, from Aug. 1, 1997 to July 31, 2021.

The other concessionaire, the Ayala-owned Manila Water Co. Inc., chose to operate the East Zone.

Maynilad is a partnership between Benpres Holdings Corp. and the French-based conglomerate, Suez Lyonnaise des Eaux. Benpres is the holding company of the Lopez Group, which is engaged in broadcasting, telephony, energy, property development, information technology, micro-finance and infrastructure development.

As expected, privatization immediately resulted in cheaper water rates.

In the West Zone, Maynilad's winning bid of P4.96 cut almost in half the then MWSS rate of P8.78 per cubic meter.

In the East Zone, Manila Water charged an even lower rate, at P2.32 per cubic meter.

Dramatic reductions

The two concessionaires were between them expected to invest about $7 billion to improve the system's services.

In the three years since they won the bidding, Maynilad and Manila Water have been hard put to maintain the rates they submitted in their bids.

They have been petitioning the MWSS, since reconstituted into a regulatory body, for rate increases ever since.

The concessionaries are allowed to increase water rates within the first five years to allow for inflation and fluctuations in the peso-dollar exchange rate.

Even before the privatization of water services, the MWSS had been using an automatic CERA to adjust tariffs for exchange rate movements. The two concessionaires are already allowed to charge a CERA fee of P1.

Increases granted

For this year, Manila Water and Maynilad were granted increases of 19 centavos and 45 centavos per cubic meter, respectively, plus an automatic inflation adjustment amounting to 26 centavos as allowed by the concession agreement, effective Jan. 1 this year.

This raised to P2.80 the basic rate charged by Manila Water. Maynilad has a new basic rate of P6.58 per cubic water.

Prior to the approval, Maynilad charged P7.84 for unsewered services, broken down as follows: basic charge of P6.13, plus a P1 CERA and an environmental charge of 71 centavos, which is 10 percent of the basic and CERA.

With sewerage services, the rate was P11.41, with the addition of the sewerage charge of P3.57 per cubic meter, which is 50 percent of the basic and CERA.

For Maynilad, the 45-centavo increase represents an overall average increase of 7.4 percent over the previous basic rate of P6.13 per cubic meter.

However, this is not all that the company is asking from the regulators.

Before it was granted the 45-centavo increase, Maynilad had originally requested for an overall EPA of P1.42 per cubic meter to account for an accumulation of EPA requests over a span of three years.

Automatic CERA

In addition, the two water suppliers are asking for an automatic currency rate adjustment (CERA) that would allow them to recover automatically, without having to petition the MWSS, losses resulting from foreign exchange fluctuations exceeding two percent.

Maynilad has argued that other utilities are protected from currency risks by an automatic CERA mechanism. Such utility firms like Napocor, Meralco and 19 privately owned cooperatives, and the PLDT and telecommunications companies enjoy automatic CERA.

The recovery of foreign exchange losses on debt service payment is allowed through a CERA when a change of more than 2 percent has occurred in the peso and the currency in which a loan is denominated.

For the past three years, the peso has depreciated nearly 100 percent in value.

The two concessionaires proposed a "temporary" CERA that will cover the unrecovered portion of foreign exchange losses from August 1997 to Sept. 2000.

The proposed CERA will be expressed as a percentage of the standard rates as follows: Maynilad with losses of P2.2 billion, P5.97, and Manila Water with losses of P300 million, 71 centavos.

What Maynilad is asking for in effect is to fast-track its recovery of past foreign exchange losses in the shortest possible time. It says the P5.97 increase in rate would be for a period of only one year.

Financial situation

Maynilad president Rafael Alunan said the company will need both the P5.97 rate increase and the automatic CERA to stanch the company's "financial hemorrhage" which could force Maynilad to abandon its capital investment plans.

He traced the company's financial problems to the unforeseen drastic deterioration of the peso, the ill effects of the El Niño weather patterns and certain disadvatageous features of the concession agreement.

Explained Alunan: "When our bid was prepared, the peso-dollar exchange rate was only P26.30 to the dollar. Although we were saddled with an $800 million MWSS debt service, a presumed 2 to 5 percent annual depreciation of the peso was acceptable. But two currency crises and one very severe El Niño are extremely difficult to handle."

When Maynilad won the West Zone concession, the exchange rate was around P26.50 to the dollar. Since then, it has almost doubled, even plummeting to as low as P52. Maynilad said its business plans were derailed as project costs went up, including the so-called concession fee, or confee, projects.

Confee projects are those initiated by the MWSS which the concessionaires assumed at privatization. Having taken over the older and bigger network, Maynilad also assumed a lion's share, or 90 percent, of loans which financed these projects.

At the time of privatization, the total worth of confee projects was P15.6 billion, of which around P5.8 billion worth has been accomplished to date, including the newly inaugurated Umiray-Angat Transbasin project.

As all of these projects were foreign-funded, the deterioration of the peso substantialy increased the service payments that Maynilad has had to make.

Maynilad assumed 90 percent of the MWSS debt as part of its concession fee agreement. Manila Water took up the remaining 10 percent.

Alunan said that Maynilad has incurred P2.2 billion in concession fee losses, funds that were spent in financing the debt instead of improving and expanding water services.

He said failure to get an automatic CERA will imperil as well a crucial term loan of $350 million that the company is negotiating.

Bigger burden

The disparity in the debt obligations taken on by the two concessionaires partly explains why Maynilad has been more aggressive than Manila Water in pressing for the higher rates and the automatic CERA.

Joel Lacsamana, public affairs manager for Manila Water, stressed that Manila Water was supporting the automatic CERA petition and the additional rate increase, but can live with the loss if they don't get it.

"If we don't get the CERA adjustment, we can live with that although bank financing for capital investment will probably be less easy. It will be a little bit harder," he said.

But he assured that Manila Water would continue with its commitments under the concession agreement.

He explained that only a fraction of the additional increases being asked is accounted for by Manila Water.

"To recover foreign exchange losses of the past three years, Maynilad is asking for P5.97. We will only get P1.10," he said.

The company, Lacsamana said, would instead concentrate on reducing its non-revenue water (or non-billed water) rate.

"When we started in 1997, our non-revenue water (NRW) rate was 64 percent, it is now 42 percent. We'll be able to cut that down further by half," he said.

Serving a much bigger West Zone, Maynilad's unbilled water burden is much larger. In May last year, Maynilad's NRW rate was placed at 63.5 percent, representing almost two-thirds of the 2,400 liters per day of water that it produced. This means that for every peso billed, the company lost P2.

Service obligations

Maynilad said that approval of its petition with the regulators is crucial to its meeting its service obligations, such as providing a 24-hour water supply seven days a week. The company intends to spend P14 billion in 2001 and 2002 for laying down 1,000 kilometers of new pipes; install 200,000 connections; construct new pumping stations; and develop and expand its water, sewerage and sanitation facilities.

It said its Bayan Tubig program for impoverished communities would be expanded if it succeeds in obtaining approval from the regulators.

Both Manila Water and Maynilad have launched projects to provide squatter communities with service connections under very liberal terms. Manila Water claims to have benefited 150,000 communities while Maynilad said it has made more than 40,000 new connections in depressed areas.

Making the case will not be easy for Maynilad but it probably will get what it wants, says economist Maitet Diokno Pascual, president of the Freedom from Debt Coalition (Freedom Against Immoral Debt) non-government organization.

Though a a petition for water rates at a time when every other utility is increasing its prices is no joking matter, Pascual said price is not really the issue in the privatization of water. Consistent with the FDC's stand against the MWSS privatization in 1997, Pascual said what the public should be looking into is the regulatory framework which has a great bearing when issues such as pricing, allocation of supply and protection of the consumer are decided.

More serious issues

Pascual says she does not hold much faith in a dispute resolution mechanism where the concessionaires are free to disregard what the regulators decide because of the way the IFC has structured the process.

Under the rules, any concessionaire which is not happy with the regulators can appeal to an arbitrator appointed by the International Chamber of Commerce whose decisions cannot be questioned by the government, she said.

"The government has abdicated its sovereignty on water, a very precious resource. In resolving disputes, it cannot question the arbitrator and there is no opportunity for the consuming public to be heard. The arbitrator will hear only the parties involved, the concessionaire and the MWSS. In the case of price increase petitions, no notice is given to the public about hearings," she said.

Pascual assailed the role of the World Bank in the privatization of water services in the country which she said has enabled the entry of global water companies into the Philippines, even into local water districts.

Although she said the old MWSS was no better, Pascual stressed that the concessionaires are themselves "chasing after profits."

She said their present financial problems stem from their having bid for the concessions at such low rates.

"What is becoming clear to them is that the amount of investments that they have to put in is higher than they envisioned. They bid at a very low price and now it's impossible for them to fulfill their service obligations. Why did they bid so low then?"

Pascual believes the reason they did so was because the structure of the regulatory process was favorable to them.

She believes this would be a good opportunity to review the concession agreement to assess the real problems that have come up.

"This should be a good time to assess how the concessionaires are doing, as well as other long-term issues such as what plans are being made for increasing the supply of water, who decides how much water to allocate to Metro Manila and the rural areas, and how do we protect the consumer," said Pascual.

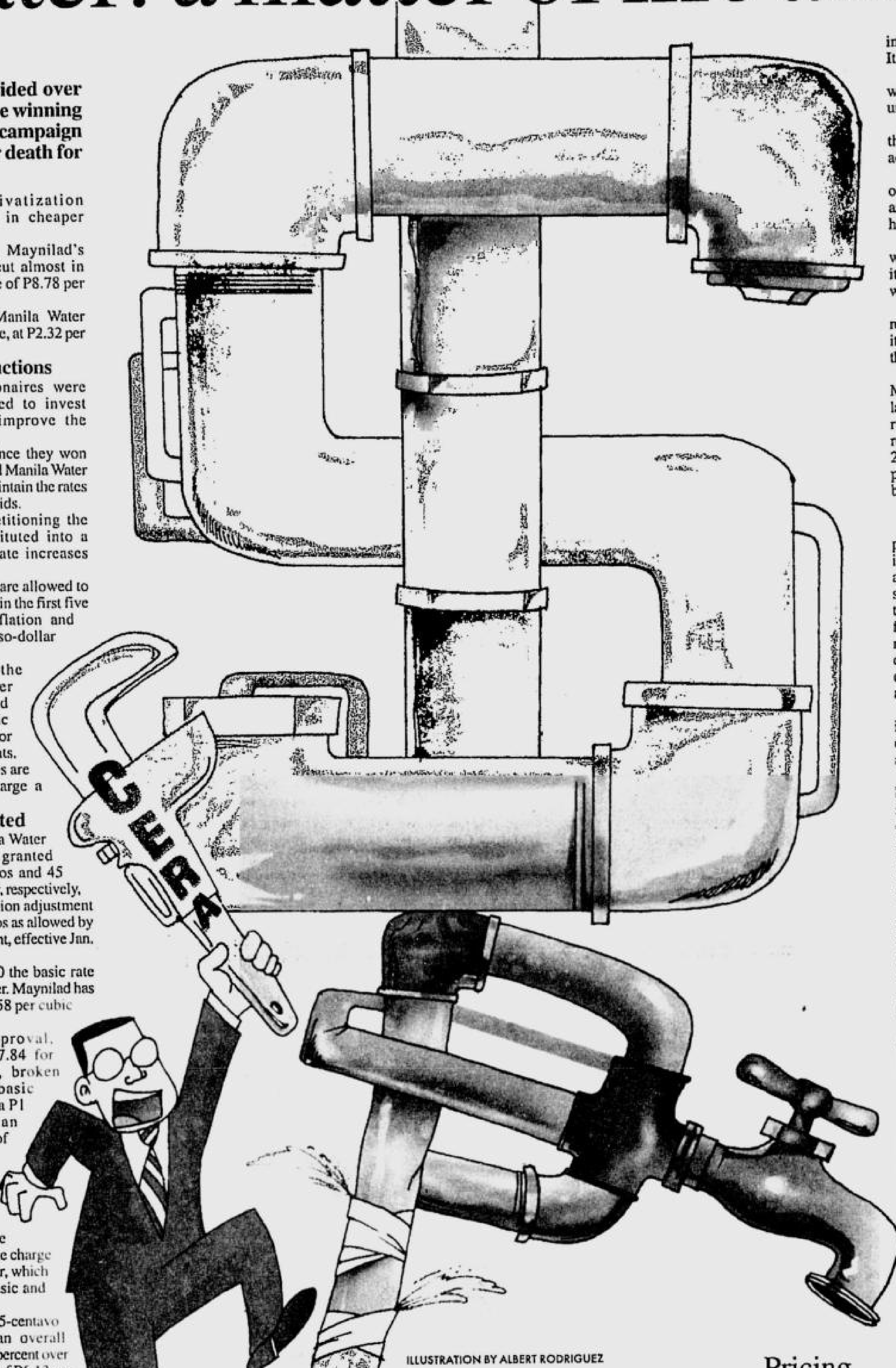

ILLUSTRATION BY ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

> Pricing decisions in natural monopolies like water services will always raise equity concerns as the consumer has no say in how costs are to be shared or in exiting the service.

Comparison of Basic Water Rates (pesos per cubic meter)

	1997	1998	1999	2000
MWSS	P8.78	P9.29	P10.28	P10.87
Maynilad	4.96	4.96	5.80	6.13
Difference	3.82	4.33	4.48	4.74

MWSS – Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage Authority
Maynilad – Maynilad Water System, Inc. (MWSI)

SOURCE: MAYNILAD

‘They will even go after my mother’

(From page A1)

cording to the governor, was part of the P130-million tobacco tax kickback for the President. But he also added that the First Lady was not aware of the source of the money.

The First Lady has denied accepting any money from Singson, saying the only thing she received from the governor was a digital video equipment.

Equitable

In his talk with reporters, the President said Equitable PCI Bank was conspiring with opposition groups to oust him.

"There is conspiracy here. It is obvious," Mr. Estrada said, referring to Equitable PCI Bank chair Ricardo Romulo.

"It is not often that the president of the Makati Business Club, right after he assumed the chairmanship of Equitable PCI Bank, will lift voluntarily the bank's confidentiality (agreements)," Mr. Estrada said.

Romulo, concurrently chair of the influential business group that is at the forefront of a movement seeking Mr. Estrada's resignation, has previously denied any notions of a conspiracy to oust the President.

Romulo became the bank chair on Dec. 19 after George L. Go, a friend of Mr. Estrada's, resigned amid allegations that the bank was being used by the President to launder dirty money, particularly payoffs by "jueteng" operators.

"There is no conspiracy between Equitable PCI Bank and the Makati Business Club to oust President Estrada. It is just coincidental that I happen to be simultaneously the chair of both Equitable PCI Bank and MBC at this time," Romulo said Friday.

Equitable PCI Bank earlier turned over the Senate court document relating to a P500-million trust account under the name of Jose Velarde.

"The very next day after becoming chairman of the bank, he released these (documents) without any subpoena duces tecum (issued by the Senate court). It was voluntary," Mr. Estrada told reporters.

"They don't care about our banking institution just so they can proceed with their agenda . . . as long as they can get me out, they'll do it," he added.

Clarissa G. Ocampo, an Equitable PCI Bank senior vice president, also testified in court that he saw the President affix the signature "Jose Velarde" on the documents.

Manuel Curato, the bank's legal officer, corroborated Ocampo's testimony. He was with her in Malacañang on Feb. 3, 2000 when the President signed the documents.

But Romulo said the testimony of the bank's executives was in response to a subpoena issued by the court.

The President's defense lawyers failed to stop Ocampo's testimony that, according to prosecutors, would prove that Mr. Estrada violated anti-graft laws to finance a lavish lifestyle for him and his mistresses.

‘Cover-up’

In her testimony, Ocampo also told the court of an attempt to hide the President's ownership of the P500-million trust account by transferring this to businessman Jaime Dichaves.

Dichaves, a friend of the President's, earlier told the Senate court that he owned the Jose Velarde accounts.

The Senate on Friday summoned Dichaves to appear by Monday to explain why he should not be punished for claiming he was the true owner of an account.

"There appears to be a deliberate and malicious intent on the part of Mr. Dichaves to mislead and make a mockery of the proceedings of the impeachment court," Senate President Aquilino Pimentel Jr. said.

In his talk with reporters on Saturday, however, Mr. Estrada declined to comment on the Senate court's move.

"I will not say anything. I will not talk about it. Let us wait for the decision," he said.

Death threats

Asked to comment on the death threat received by Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr., the President said "he is not the only one with a death threat."

All of the senators have gotten death threats," he told reporters, adding that his defense lawyers, Estelito Mendoza and Andres Narvasa, had received similar warnings.

Mr. Estrada said he ordered tighter security on the senators and his lawyers after they received black ribbons.

He did not say who was behind the threats but commented that the threats came as the opposition was trying to pressure his aides and allies to desert him, even to the point of staging protest rallies outside their offices and homes.

"That is not all. The opposition is also pressuring Narvasa to resign. They are doing all they could to force him to quit as my defense counsel," he said.

Mr. Estrada said that members of his Cabinet were being pressured to resign too. *With reports from AFP and Reuters*

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The WORLD

MARGOT J. BATERINA, Editor

THAILAND ELECTIONS

Exit polls show tycoon winning

SHINAWATRA

BANGKOK—The political party headed by Thaksin Shinawatra, a scandal-tainted telecom tycoon, looked to win Thailand's general election, according to Saturday exit polls.

The poll by Channel 9 showed the Thai Rak Thai, or Thai Love Thai, party leading rival Democrats 209-118 in the contest for 500 parliamentary seats.

The poll was based on information gathered by reporters, pollsters and nongovernment organizations. Polls closed at 3 p.m. local time.

Electoral rules restrict exit polling, and polls were not taken at some voting stations.

The Thai Rak Thai had aimed to capture at least 200 seats in the lower house of parliament. That would position the party to form a coalition government.

The tycoon's key rival, Prime Minister Chuan Leekpai—the scrupulously honest but unexciting leader of the Democrats—said his opponent presented a substantial challenge.

"This is the toughest fight in my 32-year political career because I have to fight against the richest man in this country," said Chuan, 62.

Despite the strongest-ever safeguards, analysts predict it could prove the dirtiest election in Thai history and lead to a constitutional crisis. Some even fear a military coup.

"The military is concerned over the possible delay of forming a government. The slow process could create a power vacuum," Gen. Sampao Choosri, chief of the Supreme Military Command, told reporters. But he guaranteed there would be no coup.

Voting began 8 a.m. local time at 78,290 polling stations around the country with 500 seats in the lower house of representatives at stake.

Reports showed a heavy turnout of some 60 percent for the mandatory voting. Some polls ran out of ballots, and the government radio said one voter line in the northern province of Chiang Rai stretched for more than one kilometer.

Final unofficial results were not expected until Sunday. To head off a possible crisis, the Election Commission said it would announce official results no later than Feb. 5, but might continue investigating winners suspected of wrongdoing.

As many as a quarter of winners Saturday may be disqualified for cheating, according to sources in the Election Commission, one of several tough watchdog bodies.

This would lead to new voting, but the Election Commission promised to announce results in time to comply with the law that Parliament must meet within a month of balloting. MPs later found guilty could still be unseated.

Should he win the prime ministership, Thaksin himself might be ousted if the Constitutional Court sustains a ruling by the National Counter Corruption Commission that he concealed some of his vast assets while serving in a previous government.

"Now I have to plan to work for the country," Thaksin said after voting. "I've been working hard for the party already."

Thaksin, 51, the founder of Thailand's biggest telecommunications conglomerate, has quickened the pulse of the 43 million registered voters with a slick and well-financed election campaign. *AP*

TIANANMEN PAPERS

Deng feared protests could topple gov't

NEW YORK—Documents reportedly brought out of China by a disaffected civil servant say that the late Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping ordered the violent crackdown on demonstrators at Tiananmen Square out of fear they could topple the Communist regime.

The documents reveal deep-seated paranoia that the protests were controlled by unknown anti-communist conspirators and anxiety by the party's top leaders that the more than 1 million demonstrators gathered on Tiananmen Square could demand their arrest.

"After thinking long and hard about this, I've concluded that we should bring in the People's Liberation Army (PLA) and declare martial law in Beijing," Deng was quoted as saying at a meeting held at the Party Central Office on May 18, 1989.

The documents say Deng was encouraged by several members of his inner circle, including Wang Zhen, who said, "The students are nuts if they think this handful of people can overthrow our Party and our government."

Two weeks later, troops using live ammunition moved in on the demonstrators, ending seven weeks of pro-democracy protests in Beijing. Hundreds were killed on June 4, 1989 and thousands arrested in a nationwide crackdown.

The comments by Deng and Zhen—together with what are said to be minutes of secret high-level meetings, Chinese intelligence reports and records of Deng's private phone calls—appear in the "The Tiananmen Papers: The Chinese Leadership's Decision to Use Force Against Their Own People."

Among other things, the papers appear to verify what many China scholars have long suspected: that hard-liners within the Communist Party urged Deng to use force to suppress students while reformers called for a more democratic solution.

The book published by Public Affairs is excerpted in the January/February edition of Foreign Affairs magazine, and CBS' "60 Minutes" posted portions of an interview with the civil servant, who uses the pseudonym Zhang Liang, on its website Friday.

Zhang, who describes himself as a Communist Party member sympathetic to reformers, now resides outside of China. He said he did not use his real name because he intended one day to return to Beijing.

If genuine, the documents offer a rare glimpse into the motivations and fears behind the communist leadership's decision to order the troops into Tiananmen Square, one of the most tragic and defining moments of recent Chinese history.

The book was co-edited by Andrew Nathan, a professor of political science at Columbia University, and Perry Link, a professor of Chinese language and literature at Princeton University, who told The Associated Press the documents are consistent with the smattering of information already available outside of China and with the testimonies of other former officials who have since fled.

The two professors, both well-known China experts, also spent hours interviewing the former civil servant, who they say painstakingly transcribed original records from files in Beijing and elsewhere onto computer disks, which he brought with him out of China.

The book only contains brief excepts from the disks, which, if printed out, would total about 15,000 pages in English. Members of the Communist Party in Beijing could not be reached Friday to comment on the authenticity of the papers. *AP*

Tow Liars
Liars
Liars

PALESTINIANS set fire to pictures of President Clinton calling him and Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak liars during mass protests against peacemaking with Israel in the West Bank city of Nablus. REUTERS

US may seek declaration instead of peace accord

WASHINGTON—With time running out and tough issues unresolved, President Bill Clinton may be ready to shift his goal in the Middle East from a negotiated settlement between Israel and the Palestinians to a declaration to guide the incoming Bush administration.

A senior Israeli negotiator, Gilead Sher, and a White House spokesperson, P.J. Crowley, gave strong hints of a new US direction after Sher met with Clinton for a half-hour Friday night.

Asked in the White House driveway if there was still time for a peace pact, Sher replied: "We have long odds for that. But we can achieve something to be determined by the president."

He referred to an American declaration that would try to set a point of departure for where the two sides can go in the future, said an Israeli official, speaking on condition of anonymity.

US and Israeli negotiators have begun considering the content of a declaration. It is likely to be a generalized statement and include an account of the progress Israel and the Palestinians made with the mediation of the Clinton administration.

Then it would be up to Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat to decide whether to sign it.

Clinton's drive for a Middle East peace accord inched ahead Friday with Israel's formal approval of his outline for negotiating a settlement with the Palestinians.

But the approval was laced with reservations, which were detailed in a six-page document delivered by Sher on Friday night.

Crowley, the national security spokesperson at the White House, said Clinton would ponder what he has heard from Israel and the Palestinians and decide on his next move in a day or two. "Sunday or Monday he will be in a position to say what happens next," Crowley said.

The president intends to celebrate the election of his wife, Hillary, to the Senate at New York's Madison Square Garden on Sunday and make a speech Sunday night to the Israel Policy Forum, a research group. *AP*

JOHN PAUL II

Pope issues moral laws for third millennium

VATICAN CITY—Pope John Paul II is to issue moral guidelines for the world's one billion Catholics in the new millennium Saturday after closing the Holy Door at St. Peter's Basilica in a ceremony that winds up his Jubilee 2000 celebrations.

The document, an apostolic letter dubbed "Novo millennio ineunte" (At the start of a new millennium), has been presented by the Vatican as a personal account of the 379-day Catholic Holy Year which started on Christmas Eve 1999.

It is expected to outline how to carry on the Holy Year spirit into the third millennium.

St. Peter's Holy Door will remain sealed by a brick wall until 2025, when Catholics are expected to celebrate their next Holy Year.

Catholics are granted so-called indulgences, or partial remissions of temporal punishment that they believe brings them closer to eternal life if they enter one of the holy doors—marked as such in Rome and in cathedrals throughout the world—with a pure heart after confession, communion, a prayer and special sacrifices.

Doors at the Rome basilicas of St. Mary Major, St. John Lateran and St. Paul Outside the Walls, opened by the Pope after Christmas Eve 1999, were closed on Friday night.

Holy Doors are only opened for the faithful following a decision by the Pope. The first Holy Year was celebrated in 1300. This year's marked the 2000th anniversary of the birth of Christ.

The ceremony in St. Peter's Square which starts at 9:30 a.m. will be broadcast live on television and is expected to be watched by millions of people worldwide.

It can also be followed on the Internet at www.chiesacattolica.it or at www.sat2000.it.

Hundreds of guests including Italian dignitaries and politicians were to attend the closure of St. Peter's Holy Door, as were tens of thousands of faithful in St. Peter's Square for whom huge screens have been set up for better viewing. *AFP*

Paralyzed rock climber won't settle suit with tire company

CORPUS CHRISTI, Texas—Donna Bailey, who used to climb rocks and lift weights but now lies paralyzed in a rehabilitation center, may be the first rollover crash victim to see Ford Motor Co. and Bridgestone/Firestone Inc. in court. While many other survivors of accidents involving Ford Explorers equipped with Firestone tires are settling with the car maker, which is now making a big push to resolve claims out of court, Bailey's case remains on the docket in a state court in Corpus Christi.

Jury selection is scheduled to begin Monday, and her lawyers say a settlement before then is unlikely. If it gets under way, it would be the first time such a case was tried since a massive recall of Firestone tires in August made the public aware of a string of rollover accidents, more than 200 of them fatal, in the United States and several other countries.

Bailey, speaking by telephone from her bed in the Houston clinic, declined to directly discuss the possibility of a settlement because her lawyer was not present. But she said she wants to have "everything to come out."

"I think it's important that the public show big business that we aren't going to stand for it," she said. "They chose dollars over people. You can't sell something when you know it's unsafe."

Bailey, 43, has undergone ten months of agonizing rehabilitation since her March 10 crash. She and two friends were headed to a state park for a weekend rock-climbing jaunt when, her lawyers say, the Explorer they were in rolled over on a dry, flat road after treads on a Firestone tire separated.

Bailey's seat belt was buckled, but her head was crunched against the roof of the vehicle, leaving her paralyzed from the neck down. The driver and other passenger were not seriously injured.

Outstanding case

According to Bailey's lawyers, the case stands out because there are no grounds, such as an unbuckled safety belt, for alleging that Bailey was negligent.

Bailey and her two children, an 18-year-old daughter and 15-year-old son, have sued the companies for more than $100 million.

If Ford has its way, the case won't go to a jury. In the last two weeks, the company has settled 11 lawsuits and continued negotiations in others in an effort to keep injury and death lawsuits from going to trial.

"Certainly we're looking to resolve these cases," Ford spokesperson Susan Krusel said. "If we can do it with an out-of-court settlement, we will do so."

But Ford may meet its match in Bailey, who was able to bench-press 100 pounds before the March 2000 accident.

Bailey's resolve has had plenty of time to harden. She can't read, can't surf the Internet, can't move without help. She spends her days staring at soap operas, drawing oxygen through a ventilator.

Before the accident, Bailey was studying at Texas A&M-Corpus Christi to be a gym teacher, and led troubled teens on climbing and camping expeditions as a volunteer wilderness instructor.

Bruce Kaster, a Florida lawyer who represented a handful of families in settlement negotiations with Ford, said the Bailey case will be watched closely.

"If Ford and Firestone don't resolve that case, that's going to be an indication of things to come," he said. "The stakes will go up."

The stakes are high to begin with. Federal regulators have linked at least 148 deaths to accidents involving Firestone tires that fell apart, and nearly all the victims were riding in Explorers.

Firestone recalled 6.5 million 15-inch ATX, ATX II and Wilderness tires in August. Most of the tires were mounted as standard equipment on Explorers. The companies face nearly 200 lawsuits stemming from the tire problems. *AP*

PHYSICAL therapist Todd Maguire (left) stretches the legs of Donna Bailey at a Houston, Texas hospital, Jan. 4 as part of the patient's daily rehabilitation program. Bailey and her children sued Ford Motor Company and Bridgestone/Firestone for more than $100 million after a Ford Explorer rollover left her paralyzed from the neck down ten months ago. AP

FIREFIGHTING SKILLS

Wearing traditional firemen clothing, members of Edo Firemen Commemoration Association show their acrobatic skills to the public on top of bamboo ladders during a New Year demonstration in Tokyo, Jan. 6. The fire review takes place in Tokyo at the beginning of each year. REUTERS

US insists Milosevic be tried on war crimes

WASHINGTON—The United States said Friday it did not oppose a possible compromise offered by Belgrade for the international prosecution on war crimes charges of former Yugoslav president Slobodan Milosevic.

State Department spokesperson Richard Boucher said Washington still insisted that Milosevic—accused of ordering atrocities during the ethnic cleansing campaign in Kosovo—be tried by The Hague-based tribunal that indicted him.

However, Boucher said the United States had no opinion on where the court should sit.

"'In The Hague' means in The Hague tribunal, wherever it happens to be," Boucher told reporters, referring to the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia.

"We think that where The Hague tribunal tries him should be a matter that's left to The Hague tribunal and the (Yugoslav) government to decide," he said.

Boucher's comments came in response to hints from visiting Yugoslav Foreign Minister Goran Svilanovic that Belgrade is open to an international component in any proceedings against Milosevic, who was deposed in October, as long as the trial was in Yugoslavia.

Yugoslav officials, led by President Vojislav Kostunica, have said repeatedly they are opposed to extraditing Milosevic to The Hague. Instead, they want the former strongman to be tried by Serbian courts in Serbia.

But on Thursday and again on Friday, Svilanovic said Belgrade would cooperate fully with the ICTY and appeared to open the door to the tribunal's participation in a trial of Milosevic and others indicted for war crimes.

While extradition remained a possibility, albeit slim, he said another option "is a cooperation between the domestic bodies and the Hague tribunal."

"I believe that cooperation is inevitable, particularly because I believe that the evidence is collected already by the investigators of The Hague tribunal," Svilanovic told reporters at the National Press Club.

He reiterated comments made Wednesday after meeting US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright that he envisioned this "full cooperation" as taking place on Yugoslav territory. *AFP*

Enraged hubby tracks down, shoots rapist

HERMOSA BEACH, California—An enraged husband, using a composite sketch, tracked down and shot a man he believed had raped his wife, shouting, "This is for my wife!" police said.

Sgt. Steve Endom said Anthony Starita, 32, was arrested for investigation of assault with a deadly weapon in the wounding early Thursday of Ali Sina Sharareh, who already had a rape conviction on his record.

Sharareh, 22, was in fair condition Friday.

Sharareh has not been charged in the rape of Starita's wife, but Officer Paul Wolcott said there is a "high probability" that Starita shot the right man.

Now, however, the husband "is looking at potentially doing more time than the suspected rapist," Wolcott said.

The husband could get 15 years to life in prison, plus extra years for using a handgun. Sharareh, if arrested and convicted in the rape, could get 16 years as a second-time offender. *AP*

Saddam speaks on state-run TV, radio

BAGHDAD—President Saddam Hussein addressed the Iraqi nation on state-run radio and television on Saturday appearing to put to rest opposition reports he had suffered a severe stroke.

The 63-year-old Iraqi strongman, in power for 30 years, looked well in a dark brown suit and tie, as he began a speech to mark the 80th anniversary of the formation of the country's armed forces.

"We are celebrating the Army that fought the war against Iran and the 'Mother of all battles,'" he said referring to the 1980-88 conflict and the Gulf War of 1991.

Qatar's Al-Jazeera satellite channel broadcast the speech saying it was live from Baghdad, but in the highly secretive Iraqi capital this could not be confirmed.

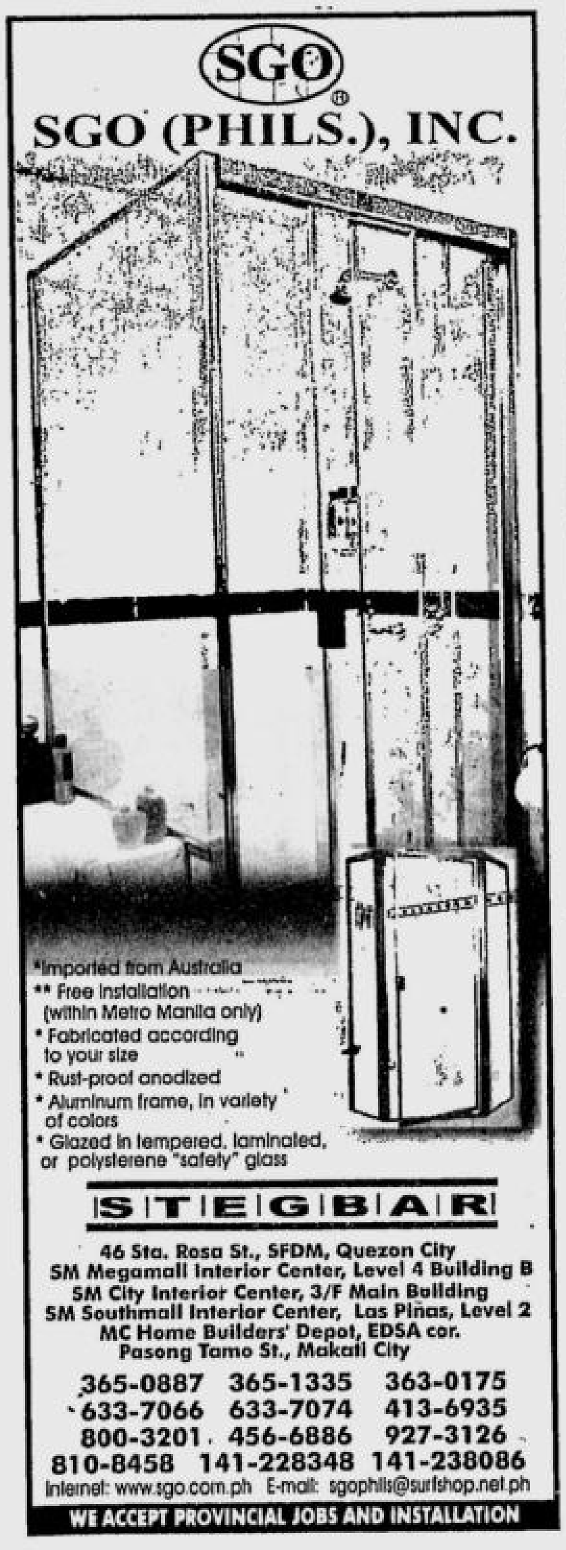
The Supreme Council of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq has alleged Saddam had suffered the stroke last Sunday after attending a huge military parade where he was seen by journalists repeatedly firing a rifle held in one hand.

The London-based Iraqi National Congress claimed to have many sources saying Saddam had collapsed shortly after, but admitted they were at best second hand and could not be verified.

On Thursday, Saddam was shown on television vowing in an encounter with a group of Arab artists that the Iraqi people were ready to liberate Palestine and take on both Israel and the United States.

It was the second straight night of state television broadcasts of the Iraqi leader, following the opposition reports.

Exiled Iraqi dissidents say the television appearances of the president may have been doctored with old or pre-recorded footage. *AFP*



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announces its
2001 Calendar of Events

JANUARY

Cologne International Furniture Fair
Design Services / Furniture & Furnishings
Cologne, Germany • 15-21 January

FEBRUARY

Spring Fair Birmingham
Gifts and Houseware
Birmingham, UK • 04-08 February

Frankfurt International Fair Ambiente
Gifts and Houseware
Frankfurt, Germany • 16-20 February

Gulf Food Exhibition
Processed Food
Dubai, UAE • 25-28 February

MARCH

Natural Products Expo
Natural, Herbal & Organic Products
Anaheim, California, USA • 08-11 March

FOODEX Japan 2001*
Organic & Natural Products
Chiba, Japan • 13-16 March

INFOTECH Philippines:
An IT & E-Commerce Exhibition
Information Technology
Manila, Philippines • 28-30 March

APRIL

Salone Internazionale del Mobile
Design Services / Furniture & Furnishings
Milan, Italy • 04-09 April

Manila F.A.M.E. International
Gifts & Houseware, Holiday Decor & Fashion Accessories
Manila, Philippines • 22-25 April

Hannover Messe
Industrial Goods and Services
Hannover, Germany • 23-28 April

MAY

International Contemporary Furniture Fair
Design Services / Furniture & Furnishings
New York, USA • 19-22 May

Outsource & Subcon
Metal Parts & Components
Singapore • 22-26 May

ASEAN Fashion Goods Exhibition
Fashion Accessories & Components
Tokyo, Japan • May - August

JUNE

Ethnic & Specialty Food Show*
Processed Food
Paris, France • 13-14 June

BIO-Search
Natural, Herbal & Organic Products
Manila, Philippines • 21-24 June

Transformation: Nature & Beyond
Raw & Processed Materials
New York, USA • June (tentative)

AUGUST

Fashion Accessories Selling Mission to New York*
Fashion Accessories
New York, USA • 19 - 23 August

Frankfurt International Fair Tendence
Gifts and Houseware
Frankfurt, Germany • 24-28 August

Food and Hotel China
Processed Food
Shanghai, China • 28-31 August

SEPTEMBER

Tokyo International Gift Show
Leathergoods & Fashion Accessories
Tokyo, Japan • 5 - 7 September

Maison & Objet
Design Services / Furniture & Furnishings
Paris, France • 7-11 September

Industry Search 2001
Industrial Goods & Services
Manila, Philippines • 19 - 21 September

MACEF Autunno*
Fine Jewelry
Milan, Italy • 7-10 September

ASEAN Food & Beverage Exhibition
Processed Food
Tokyo, Japan • September - January 2002

OCTOBER

Anuga
Processed Food
Cologne, Germany • 13-18 October

Manila F.A.M.E. International
Gifts & Houseware, Holiday Decor & Fashion Accessories
Manila, Philippines • 27-30 October

CEATEC Japan
Electronics
Tokyo, Japan • 02 - 06 October

NOVEMBER

Comdex Fall
Information Technology
Las Vegas, USA • 12 - 16 November

Asian Ethnic Food Fest
Processed Food
Manila, Philippines • 22-25 November

International Furniture Fair Tokyo (IFFT)
Furniture & Furnishings
Tokyo, Japan • 20 - 23 November

* - tentative

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Across the NATION

TONY BERGONIA, Assistant Editor

AFP denies kidnap victim now dead

PAGADIAN CITY—The military has denied reports that kidnapping victim Marilyn Tiu, wife of a Filipino-Chinese trader, was executed by her captors apparently to avenge the death of the kidnappers in the hands of soldiers.

Col. Mayoralgo de la Cruz, commanding officer of the 55th Infantry Battalion, told the INQUIRER that contrary to reports, Marilyn Tiu, seized on Nov. 28, is still alive and in the custody of the kidnappers.

Tiu's husband, Richard, operates a provincial bus line in Zamboanga del Sur and is engaged in fish trading.

De la Cruz said Tiu's kidnappers, through an emissary, contacted the family of the victim last week, denying reports published in several national dailies that Tiu is dead. The emissary reportedly said the kidnappers would send the family her latest picture.

The kidnappers also demanded P200,000 in "board and lodging fees" apart from the ransom money which they will discuss when the negotiations begin.

But De la Cruz said the family refused to give any money to the kidnappers until there was proof that Tiu is still alive.

He said Tiu's kidnappers belonged to a group led by a certain Commander Mokadam Sakuli, reportedly the deputy of Abdulsalam Akiddin, alias Commander Kiddie, a known gang leader. *Hernan de la Cruz, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

BEN MOSES EBREO

ORDINARY HEROES

The search for heroes in these trying times should not start and end in the corridors of power but on the streets, in the provinces, where sturdy men, such as these farmers drying palay on a road in Anda, Pangasinan, live ordinary lives.

No. 2 Negros NPA man falls

By Carla Gomez
PDI Visayas Bureau

BACOLOD CITY—A high-ranking leader of the mainstream New People's Army was captured Saturday afternoon in Bago City, 31 kilometers southwest of this city.

Col. Alfonsus Crucero, 303rd Infantry Brigade commander, said Jesse Lipura, deputy secretary of the Negros Island Regional Party Committee (NIRPC), and five others were arrested at 2:30 p.m. in Barangay Taloc, Bago by a team of police and military operatives.

He said Lipura's arrest is expected to create a setback in the communist movement on the island because the suspect is next in line to priest-turned-rebel Frank Fernandez, Communist Party of the Philippines-NPA chief on the island who is reportedly suffering from a lingering illness.

Lipura temporarily took over the NIRPC while Fernandez was recovering from his ailment, he added.

He said Lipura is also commanding officer of the Security Defense Group of the Negros Island Committee.

Crucero said military and police agents spotted Lipura's jeep in Bacolod and chased the vehicle.

The rebels were cornered in Barangay Taloc, Bago after the agents fired at the jeep's tires, he added.

Also arrested were Medardaro Sayosa, Charlito Abueva, Emmanuel Hernaiz, Frederick Oyos and Merpe Abuzo, who are believed to be NPA members, said Crucero.

Seized from the suspects were a .45 cal. pistol, three grenades, P170,000 in cash, communist documents, and sunglasses believed to be owned by Lipura, who reportedly commands about 400 NPA guerrillas on Negros Island.

The six were turned over to the Negros Occidental Police Provincial Command in Camp Alfredo Montelibano Sr. in Bacolod where they were being interrogated.

ROUNDUP

Ship seeks shelter, runs aground

CEBU CITY—A passenger ship from Cebu City ran aground off Bohol waters, an hour before its scheduled arrival in Bato, Leyte. All 131 passengers and 15 crewmembers of the MV South Pacific were later transferred to private pump boats, said Commander Godofredo Mandal, Cebu Coast Guard station chief. The vessel left the Cebu City port at about 9 p.m. Thursday and was to arrive in Bato at about 4:30 a.m. But Mandal said ship skipper Leovigildo Lopariza decided to take shelter in Talibon, Bohol because of the rough seas. The ship, however, ran aground at about 3:30 a.m. off Tambo Island, about two nautical miles north of Talibon. *Jhunnex Napallacan, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Vice mayor in rape case gives up

BACOLOD CITY—Vice Mayor David Pontillano of Salvador Benedicto town pleaded innocent to rape charges during his arraignment Wednesday morning before Judge Anastacio Rufon of the Regional Trial Court of Bacolod. His lawyers also filed a petition for bail to seek Pontillano's temporary liberty. The vice mayor was accused of raping a 17-year-old high school student. He surrendered to authorities on Dec. 29, more than a month after a warrant for his arrest was issued. He was brought to the Negros Occidental provincial jail by Salvador Benedicto police chief Victorino Romanillos. The vice mayor denied he went into hiding, saying he went on leave for a month because his two brothers and a grandson died in Bayawan, Negros Oriental. *Carla Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau*

1st Pinoy in environment body honored

CEBU CITY—The Cebu City council passed a resolution, commending the achievement of Antonio Oposa, the only Filipino and the first Asian to be elected as a member of the Board of Trustees of the prestigious Center for International Environmental Law based in Washington. The resolution, sponsored by Councilor Michael Rama, was passed during the council's regular session on Dec. 20. Oposa was born in Manila but he chose to be a Cebuano by residing in Sta. Fe, Bantayan Island. Oposa is the Philippine's pioneer environmental lawyer. He received the Ten Outstanding Young Men (TOYM) award because of his contribution to the environmental law. He was also given the United Nations Award in the field of environment for his contributions to international environmental jurisprudence. *PDI Visayas Bureau*

Maasin dads OK ₱100-M budget

MAASIN CITY—The city council has approved a P100.5 million budget for 2001, P40 million short of the estimated Internal Revenue Allotment of the city. Councilor Crispin Arong Jr., finance committee chair, said the budget was a conservative estimate pending approval by the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) of the city's new IRA. "We will receive the remaining balance automatically once the (DBM) approves the new IRA," said Arong. The new IRA, P140 million, is about 200 percent higher than what Maasin used to receive when it was still a municipality. *Jani Arnaiz, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Cops deployed to Iloilo mall

ILOILO CITY—Police presence is now a permanent fixture in one of the city's big malls. A public security assistance booth or Complaints Referral and Actions Center (CRAC) manned by a police officer was set up at the SM City-Iloilo in December after the SM City-Iloilo management requested for it from the regional police office. Senior Supt. Rodolfo Ebardo, police chief of the directorial staff in Western Visayas, said the request was in accordance with a directive from Camp Crame to secure and provide police assistance centers in areas frequented by people. He said the police regional office is ready to accommodate the management of other shopping malls should they make the same request. *Joy de Leon, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Isabela receives P100-M agri award

ILAGAN, Isabela—The Department of Budget and Management has released the P100-million prize won by Isabela in the Gawad Sapat-Ani awards in October last year. Gov. Benjamin Dy said the money would be used to buy four mechanical planters, 40 mechanical dryers and 10 hand tractors for farmers and cooperatives in Isabela. Local farmers would also be given free fertilizers through a "buy one-take one" scheme of the provincial government. *Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Man dies after son beat him up

CAUAYAN, Isabela—A 65-year-old man died after his son beat him up in Barangay Marabulig here on Wednesday. Police said Godofredo Corpuz, died at a hospital here a day after he was attacked by his son Nestor in their house. Reports said the elder Corpuz was eating with his daughter when the suspect suddenly grabbed a wood and hit his father repeatedly. Police said relatives of the victim would not file charges against the younger Corpuz because he is suffering from a mental illness. *Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

TOBACCO TAX KICKBACKS

Trader sues 'impostor'

By Suzzane Salva
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—Businessman Victor Jose Tan Uy has filed a P5-million damage suit against Eleuterio Tan for using his picture in an ID and misrepresenting him in transactions linked to charges that President Estrada took millions of pesos in tobacco tax kickbacks.

Tan Uy insisted that he has nothing to do with the activities of Tan who "merely used (his) pictures without any authority."

"Because of the malicious acts of (Tan) in using the picture and other personal circumstances of (Tan Uy), the latter was humiliated, maligned and even defamed before all (his) business associates and the Filipino (people) in general," said Tan Uy in his seven-page complaint.

Tan Uy claimed that he suffered "moral degradation, mental shock and sleepless nights" after he was linked to Tan's business deals.

Tan Uy said Tan "maliciously" and "fraudulently" used his pictures and misrepresented him.

P4M in damages

For this, he added, Tan should be made to pay P4 million in damages and P1 million in lawyers' fees.

Attached to the complaint were machine copies of newspaper clippings where Tan Uy was identified as Eleuterio Tan.

Tan Uy also told the court that Tan could be served summons at Solid Builders GCC, Libertad, Mandaluyong City, the address in one of the two ID cards that Tan used to cash P90 million in tobacco tax kickbacks.

The complaint was filed before the Regional Trial Court in Cebu on Dec. 29, or a week after Senate President Aquilino Pimentel turned over to the impeachment court documents showing that Tan Uy and Tan were the same person.

Tan Uy comes from a wealthy Chinese-Filipino family in Cebu, which owns the Uy Masuy Wine Factory, a wine manufacturing business.

He admitted that he was a friend of Mr. Estrada although "I am not that close (to) the President." He also said he rarely went to Malacañang after Mr. Estrada assumed office.

Close friends

But those in Tan Uy's circle of friends in Cebu are aware of his friendship with President Estrada. In fact, Tan Uy's friends expressed no surprise when he was dragged into the controversy because of his closeness to the President.

"He has never hidden the fact that he is close to Erap," said one of his friends, who refused to be identified. "It is common knowledge among those who know him."

The source said Tan Uy would even bring roasted pig to Malacañang because the businessman knew that the President liked Cebu's famous *lechon* very much.

Tan Uy would also provide vehicles for the President whenever he was in Cebu.

Sources also said that Tan Uy had contributed campaign funds to Mr. Estrada's presidential bid. The estimated amount, however, varied. Some claimed Tan Uy gave P200 million to Estrada's campaign coffers. Other sources said Tan Uy gave only P2 million.

Tan Uy denied he gave P200 million to Estrada's campaign war chest, saying he does not have that kind of money.

'Spectator'

He said he was a mere "spectator" during Mr. Estrada's campaign.

Tan Uy, however, admitted he would "sometimes" provide vehicles to Mr. Estrada in Cebu. He claimed he did so on the request of Presidential Assistant for Central Visayas Marcelo Fernan Jr.

The businessman has kept a low profile until he was identified by Pimentel as one of the three persons who allegedly delivered P130 million in kickbacks from tobacco excise taxes to Mr. Estrada's friend, Charlie "Atong" Ang and eventually to President Estrada.

During the Dec. 22 trial, Pimentel submitted two pictures to the impeachment court. One was from a Solid Builders' Center company ID that Tan presented to the Land Bank of the Philippines when he cashed P90 million.

The second was a photo of Uy from his driver's license.

Lawyer Emilia Pueyo, secretary of the Senate blue ribbon committee, said in a memo to Pimentel that the faces in the two pictures were similar.

Pueyo also noted similarities in the birthdays of Tan Uy and Tan. Tan Uy was born on Feb. 20, 1970 while Tan listed his birthday as Feb. 20, 1971.

Same address

Pimentel also said Tan Uy and Tan had the same address—2041 M.J. Cuenco Avenue, Cebu City.

The address was that of the incorporator of Power Management Consultancy Inc, which is the business address of Uy's Uy Masuy Wine Factory.

Tan Uy had admitted that he put up the consultancy firm "with some friends." But he later divested himself of shares in the firm before Ang came into the picture because, he said, operating jai alai was not his kind of business. *With a report from Connie Fernandez, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Mt. Pinatubo eruption boon to another mountain in Luzon

SAN FERNANDO, Pampanga—Although late, Mt. Arayat which towers over Central Luzon, is benefiting from Mt. Pinatubo's reawakening in 1991.

Nine years after Mt. Pinatubo spewed tons of lahar, Mt. Arayat, particularly its 10-hectare park, gained P33 million from taxes collected by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources from sand-rich provinces like Pampanga and Zambales.

The government's tourism agencies are also giving another boost to Mt. Arayat, declared a national park in 1933.

Starting this year, the Department of Tourism (DOT) in Central Luzon and the Philippine Tourism Authority will promote, manage and operate the park, Tourism Secretary Gemma Cruz-Araneta announced on Thursday.

The DENR turned over the management of the park to the DOT through a memorandum of agreement signed on Dec. 6 by Araneta, Environment Secretary Antonio Cerilles, Arayat Mayor Benigno Espino and Emmy Bamba, Natural Resources and Development Corp. vice president.

The turnover was in line with Republic Act 7690 that declared the park a tourist spot, according to Ronaldo Tiotuico, regional DOT director.

The park is located in San Juan Baño, a village at the foothills of the mountain in Arayat town, some 15 kilometers from here.

Tiotuico said the park would be developed as a major ecotourism destination in Central Luzon.

Through quarry taxes raised from sand haulers who supply the construction industry with Mt. Pinatubo sand, the DENR has improved the park's administration building, parking area, guard house, location map, concrete pathways and walks.

The playground, water basins, wildlife enclosures, dancing pavilion, restrooms, kiosks, huts and picnic tables, viewing deck and the 100-step stairway were also improved.

Three big swimming pools are fed by natural spring water from Mt. Arayat.

A conference hall, set amid a canopy of centuries-old trees, can accommodate 200 people at a time.

"The plan is to ensure that San Juan Baño benefits socially and economically from the park's development in line with the global code of ethics on ecotourism," Tiotuico said.

The plan includes a skills enhancement program on basic resort management and operation, environmental management and conservation, mountain guiding seminar and home stay program.

The Holiday Inn Resort Clark Field will help in the training program, Tiotuico said.

The DENR, on the other hand, will reforest the 3,000-foot mountain where several major rivers crucial for the irrigation of Pampanga and Bulacan snake through.

The 3,715-hectare mountain—where Filipino revolutionaries had held camps—had lost its primary forest mainly due to illegal commercial logging, said a DENR study in June 1999. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

New killing sparks feud over fishing

LAUREL, Batangas—The conflict among three large fishermen's groups over territorial control of Taal Lake's fishing grounds erupted anew when a fish cage operator was shot dead Thursday by a still unidentified gunman.

Fernando Austria, 37, of Malabanan Avenue of Poblacion 4 this town, was gunned down in the town proper, said Supt. Florante Baguio, Batangas police provincial director.

The gunman barged into Austria's house at about 9 p.m. and shot at Austria using a Carbine rifle.

Policemen recovered at least 10 spent bullet shells from the crime scene.

Austria suffered multiple gunshot wounds and was pronounced dead on arrival at the Laurel Municipal Hospital.

Austria owned a fish cage in Laurel town which has three groups of rival fishermen. Austria belonged to another group.

One group uses strong lights to attract fish while the other uses fine mesh nets.

Police said past killings were attributed to the rivalry of these groups.

The worst case, police said, came in 1991 when three men were killed and three others were injured.

Investigators have not solved the killings because of the people's refusal to talk about the cases. *Mei Magsino, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

INQUIRER Mindanao
JUN BANDAYREL, Editor ■ CAROLYN O. ARGUILLAS, Bureau Chief

In search of good news in Mindanao

"Can you think of any good thing that happened in Mindanao last year?"

The question left many Mindanaoans thinking long and hard.

No one remembers that on the first day of the year 2000 (start of the millennium, as others would say), the rains blocked the view of the first ray of the "millennium sunrise" from Pusan Point in Davao Oriental and thick fog covered the view from the peak of Mt. Apo, the country's highest.

It was a bad omen, many said.

But who was to know then that bombs would soon rain on the central part of Mindanao and later on Sulu on orders of President Estrada?

With such an overdose of bad news in Mindanao in the year 2000—wars, kidnappings, bombings, massacres, assassinations, air-sea-land accidents—was there any good at all?

Puzzle

"*Palaisipan nga*. I will e-mail you if I can think of something," said Aveen Acuna-Gulo, information communication advocacy officer of the United Nations Development Program coordinating team.

"Give me 12 months to think. I need to ponder," said Prof. Moner Bajunaid, technical working group head of the now defunct peace panel of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front.

"I can't remember. It seems year 2000 was really not a good year for Mindanao," said Fr. Jon Domingo, parish priest of Pikit, North Cotabato.

"Sorry *pero wala gyud ko mahunahuna* (but I can't think of anything)," said Fr. Bert Layson, head of the Interreligious Dialogue and Parish Disaster Response Team of Pikit.

"*Wa gyud* (nothing)," said Rene B. Lumawag, photo editor of SunStar Davao.

"None dear, as far as Maguindanao is concerned. All negative," said Bai Maleiha Candao, editor-publisher of the New Mindanao Kris.

"*Isa lang ang alam kong* good news: Erap's impeachment," said Baicon Macaraya of Marawi City.

Good news from bad

The "all-out war" against the MILF in the mainland's center and the "all-out" offensives against the Abu Sayyaf in the island provinces of Basilan and Sulu displaced thousands of civilians, resurrected vigilantes, destroyed mosques and houses, threatened otherwise peaceful communities, maimed hundreds, rendered hundreds widowed or orphaned and plunged an otherwise upbeat Mindanao economy back to the dark ages.

But for all the bad that the wars brought, they also brought out the good in Mindanaoans.

Even the children did their part.

Rosan Aliya "Iya" Agbon, 12, wrote a letter of appeal in early May, seeking help from fellow children to help children who fell victims to the war.

"Kids for Peace," she called her group.

But she did not stop at soliciting donations of cash or goods to help the suffering children. She went out of her way, with other kids, to help rebuild young lives.

And when the time came for them to part ways, the children evacuees—both of the Christian and Muslim faith—asked for "remembrance."

The "remembrance" came in the form of thumb-sized paper "stars." To this day and until they grow old, they will remember, when they look up the stars, that they touched each other's lives.

Iya, now 13 and a freshman in the Albert Einstein's high school department in Cotabato City, has continued her campaign.

Thousands of children have yet to return to their villages.

HUMAN kindness transcending war, religion, ethnic differences was one of the good news in Mindanao last year. Such is the kindness that drove members of a Christian group to donate goods in Kauswagan, Lanao del Norte to Muslim residents who were driven out of their homes by war. BOBBY TIMONERA

No to disunity

The war destroyed otherwise peaceful neighborhoods of mixed cultures and religions but it also unified mixed communities opposed to war.

"With the efforts of the peace-loving people of different faiths, *kaya nating harangin ano mang balak nila* to disunite once again the Muslims and Christians but if they will go on, *makakarma rin sila* just like what is happening to Erap now because of what they have done to Mindanao," said Baicon Macaraya of the Mindanao State University, one of thousands of volunteers who helped evacuees in war-ravaged towns.

Gingging Javellanosa Valle, officer in charge of the audio-visual center of the Assumption School of Davao said, "there are lots of good that came out of the all-out war of Erap against the Moro people, such as (the) joining of forces among those opposed to war."

For Ms Candao, "the most important things that emerged last year as a consequence of Erap's all-out war is the strengthening of (the) bond among peace-loving Mindanaoans."

In media, two organizations were born, the Mindanao Institute of Journalism and the Mindanao Media for Peace.

Mindanaoans and non-Mindanaoans opposed to war took to the streets and joined other forums to protest Mr. Estrada's all-out war.

Business was bad but . . .

The otherwise upbeat economic trend expected in 2000 turned into a downtrend but Mindanao's business sector—through the Mindanao Business Council (MBC)—managed to unify their positions in opposing the war and taking a stand on the impeachment of Mr. Estrada, said Joji Ilagan-Bian, MBC chair.

The Muslim Business Forum also became an active participant in the council.

Businesses in Mindanao were matched with their counterparts in the East Asean Growth Area (EAGA) by the two groups.

Bian also pointed to the 3.5 to 4 percent growth in agriculture in Mindanao as "positive" news. Also good news was the increased production of tuna canneries because of a higher demand abroad.

NGOs

Along with Mindanao-based NGOs, business, civic and church groups, several national and international NGOs helped feed and rehabilitate evacuees, helped improve conditions in the congested evacuation centers, funded the construction of makeshift classrooms in schools used as evacuation centers, helped build houses for evacuees returning to their villages, held dialogues and helped (and are still helping) in the healing process.

If it were not for the NGOs and the church-based groups, many more evacuees would have died from starvation in the evacuation centers. The government's relief assistance was few and far between.

Mindanao's Catholic and Protestant bishops and the Muslim *ulama* also came forward to make a common demand for an end to war.

In North Cotabato, Catholic priests, Protestant pastors and Muslim *imams* regularly met to attend to the needs of evacuees and discuss means to preserve the peace amid the war and the massacres.

Fr. Eliseo Mercado Jr., president of the Notre Dame University and head of the Independent Fact-Finding Mission of the government and MILF peace panels, said "Mindanao was headline news worldwide because of the war and the kidnappings. Bad news. But the focus on Mindanao was tops."

Indeed, for the first time in decades, the nation's attention was focused on Mindanao.

More importantly, last year's wars showed the nation that war did not and does not solve the "Mindanao problem."

Literature and Politics

There were other good news in Mindanao sidelined by the bad.

In literature, Zamboanga novelist Antonio Reyes Enriquez won last year's Southeast Asian Write Award in Bangkok, Thailand, the first Mindanao-based writer to win the prestigious award ***(see related story on this page)***.

In national politics, Sen. Aquilino Pimentel became the first Mindanaoan to be elected Senate President, although the election came at such a rocky period in Philippine history—a reorganization of Senate officials brought about by the resignation from the ruling party of then Senate President Franklin Drilon. Pimentel had to cast the 13th vote to make him win the Nov. 13 elections.

Mindanaoans gave mixed reviews about Pimentel's ascendance into the Senate's top post.

Pimentel, however, doesn't consider his election as Senate President good news.

"My having been elected as Senate President can hardly qualify as a good or positive news in 2000. It was just one of those things that happen to the life of a politician like me, a grace from the Almighty, indeed, but no earthshaker," he said.

"Probably, the claim—subject to verification—that the Estrada administration has provided Mindanao with lots of funds for development may be good news for Mindanao. The other good thing that I think happened on our island is that the government war against the MILF has not escalated as widely as many thought it would," he said.

Another Mindanaoan senator, Teofisto Guingona Jr.—the other contender for the post of Senate President—made history by bringing "Juetengate" to the Senate.

Guingona, in a privilege speech, accused President Estrada of wrongdoings, eventually paving the way for the investigation by the Senate blue ribbon and justice committees and the impeachment of Mr. Estrada by the House of Representatives.

Marital rape

Some men may have found this "bad" but it certainly was "good news" for women.

On Oct. 12 last year, just as the nation was getting hooked on the developments in Juetengate, Judge Renato Fuentes of Davao City handed a decision lauded by women's groups as a "breakthrough in jurisprudence."

Fuentes found taxi driver Eleuterio Baudon guilty of raping his pregnant wife, Remedios.

The decision came three years after the passage of the controversial RA 8353 (Anti-Rape Law of 1997) which criminalizes for the first time a common-law concept known as marital rape.

Many women are still unaware that they can avail themselves of this law.

Rep. Patricia Sarena (Abanase Pinay! party list) said, "we still need to educate women, to tell them that there's a law which they can use."

Bridges of Peace

For lawyer Randolph Parcasio, executive secretary of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, last year's good news was the inauguration of "Salaam bridges" (Peace).

For Marriz Manuel B. Agbon, vice president of the Cagayan de Oro's Oro chamber, the year was full of bad news "except for the quiet celebration of our 10th wedding anniversary and 24 years of friendship and the Mindanao Family Congress we hosted in CDO (Cagayan de Oro)."

For lawyer Carlos Isagani T. Zárate, vice president of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines Davao chapter and co-convenor of the Dismiss Erap Now! group, the good news last year was "Davao was declared 17th livable city by Asiaweek, up from 18th the previous year."

In houseware design, Davao City-based designer Ann Tiukinhoy Pamintuan won the Grand Prix in the metals category in the Autumn FORMEX Priset 2000, a major European houseware design exhibit held last month in Stockholm, Sweden, the Growth with Equity in Mindanao Infocenter reported.

Her winning entry was a design of "decorative plates woven from metal twine."

Philippine Eagles

Two more Philippine Eagles were hatched last year—32 days apart.

The birth of the two eagles—on Nov. 10 (through cooperative artificial insemination) and Dec. 15 (through natural pairing techniques)—brought to eight the population of the endangered species that were conceived and hatched in captivity here the last eight years.

Seven of the eaglets that hatched survived while the first offspring of a natural pair, Mindanaw, died hours after it hatched on Nov. 9, 1995 due to a congenital defect.

Books

Many books written by Mindanaoans saw print last year ***(see other story for literature)***, a number of them on the Mindanao problem, peace prospects, *lumad* communities and even the history of a town.

Among these books (all "must read") are:

- "The Moro Rebellion and the Search for Peace: a study on Christian-Muslim relations in the Philippines" by Bishop Hilario M. Gomez Jr., Bishop Emeritus off the United Church of Christ in the Philippines and co-convenor of the Mindanao Bishops-Ulama Forum; published by the Silsilah Publications of Zamboanga City.
- "Making Mindanao: Cotabato and Davao in the formation of the Philippine nation-state" by Patricio N. Abinales of Ozamiz City, published by the Ateneo de Manila University Press;
- "Generating Energies in Mt. Apo: cultural politics in a contested environment" by Fr. Albert E. Alejo, SJ (better known as Paring Bert); published by the Ateneo de Manila University Press; and
- Redemptorist Bro. Karl Gaspar's "The Lumad Struggle in the Face of Globalization;" published by the Alternate Forum for Research in Mindanao.

Mindanao Studies

In the academe, the University of the Philippines-Mindanao graduated its first batch last year. The university opened in Davao City in 1996.

Several academic and research institutes, government and private institutions banded into the "Mindanao Studies Consortium" and are now preparing for the "International Conference on Mindanao Studies" in Davao City in October this year.

The conference's theme is: "Change and Transformation in Mindanao" and the conference aims to "provide a venue for scholars in various fields of discipline such as history, the humanities, social sciences, education, politics and business to exchange ideas with policymakers and the concerned public in forging a vision for Mindanao." ***Carolyn O. Arguillas with reports from Jowel F. Canuday and Charina C. Sanz, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

Mindanao writers enjoy good year

BY CHRISTINE G. ORTEGA
Iligan City

IT'S been a good year in the development and promotion of the literatures of Mindanao.

The winning of a Zamboangueno novelist of the prestigious SEA (Southeast Asian) Write Award, the successful interaction of writers and literature teachers, the publication of works by Mindanao writers in anthologies, the popularization of literature through poetry readings dubbed "Bukambibig" and "Sundown with Artists," poetry clinics, a British-Philippine Writers' Conference and national and regional writers workshops designed to promote the crafting of literature in Mindanao's various languages were held in the cities of Davao, Iligan, and Zamboanga cities and in Marbel, South Cotabato last year.

These literary activities were conducted by Mindanao's writers groups, the Davao Writers Guild, the Mindanao Creative Writers Group and by some academic institutions like the Mindanao State University-Iligan Institute of Technology, La Salle Academy, St. Michael's College and the Iligan City National High School in Iligan City; Ateneo de Davao University, UP Mindanao and the University of Immaculate Conception in Davao City; University of Notre Dame in Marbel, South Cotabato and the Western Mindanao State University in Zamboanga City.

Some of the activities—the "Bukambibig," the Iligan National Writers Workshop, the Zamboanga Regional Writers Workshop, the Sundown with Artists—that were held during the celebration of Peace Week in Mindanao were carried out with funds from the National Commission for Culture and Arts (NCCA) and other institutions.

The British Council in Manila sponsored the British-Filipino Writers' Conference.

Mindanao writers in English likewise celebrated Zamboanga novelist Antonio Reyes Enriquez's winning the year's SEA Write Award in Bangkok, the first Mindanao-based writer to win the prestigious prize.

Dean Ricardo de Ungria of UP Mindanao's College of Arts & Sciences, who is also head of the NCCA-National Literary Arts Committee, reminded the Inquirer that Davao-based poet Tita Lacambra Ayala continues to publish, almost single-handedly, the Road Map Series.

This publication, which has featured many of Mindanao's writers and artists, was first published in 1981.

But compared to their Luzon and Visayas counterparts, the publication of works by Mindanao writers are few and far between.

Works of Mindanao writers appeared in national newsmagazines—Philippine Graphic, Philippine Free Press, the old Sunday Inquirer Magazine and Home Life Magazine—and in an anthology published by the De La Salle University.

Their works also appeared in another anthology published by the Anvil Publishers.

NCCA Executive Director Virgilio Almario told the Inquirer that based on his observation of how literature is shaped in Iligan, Davao and Zamboanga cities, there was a "great possibility" that the crafting of these literatures in native languages could enrich the texture of Mindanao literature since these native languages are "legitimate carriers of (writers') concepts and ideas."

Almario predicts a "different" generation of writers from Mindanao who, through writers' workshops, could interact in today's literary centers—Davao, Iligan and Zamboanga cities—resulting in the development and promotion of Mindanao's native languages such as Chabacano, Cebuano, Maranao, Tausug, etc.

How an emperor's name won over a chief justice's

DUGONG MINDANAW

Christine Godinez-Ortega

We want to know what the Mindanaoan youngblood, middle-aged blood or high blood are thinking about what's happening in Mindanao and the rest of the country. -- ED.

THE INTERNET is the best alternative to yesterday's almanac, our fellow correspondent, Hernan de la Cruz,

For the choice of a name for his third child, a son, Hernan turned to the PDI Mindanao e-group for help and dangled a prize for the winning name.

The catch was that the name must begin with an "H" as in "Hilario," to complement Hernan's daughter's name, Hannah Louise, and that of his firstborn son, Hemuel.

Six in the e-group, including this writer, joined the name game, e-mailing justifications for our choices.

But, as Romeo had asked, "what's in a name?"

Much, for a name reveals the parents' personalities, social and educational backgrounds.

From conception to delivery, to the trip to the registrar's office, the baptism, and, the wobbly filling up of records, the child should understand that his name is his own—whose beautiful sound could make him take offense over the "*sitsits*" or "*hoy-hoys*" from the rude. Ask any waiter or flight stewardess about this and you'll get a litany of complaints.

Really, giving names is serious business. Take someone we know whose parents named him Mussolini. When he got to high school he found out Mussolini was a fascist dictator so he shortened his name to "Mus." When he took up biology in college, he discovered that "Mus" is Latin for "mouse." So he decided to abbreviate further his name to "M." Now, I dread the day he'll come across the play, "M. Butterfly."

From the hilarious to the sublime, names suggest a range of knowledge among the e-group respondents, names associated with contemporary events to the remote past, each one evaluated and debated upon through e-mail.

Why not "*Hueteng*," proposed Nico for which Carol appended, "Himpeachment" while Rex proffered "Heagle or Hefferyi" after all that "name the eagle" raucous.

It came as no surprise that many of the names suggested originated from mythology.

Violy came up with "Hercules" and Rex again with "Hermes," journalist of the gods or "Hector" and "*Hanuman*."

Bobby offered "Hubert" with a parenthetical "Webb" after it which wasn't such a bad idea considering that Rex suggested "Herod" but quickly withdrew it with a "naaah!"

Still, Hernan (often referred to as "Pastor" in the group), refused to bite even if Carol's suggestions treaded on the religious, "Hose" for Joseph, "Hesus" as the Filipino version for Jesus and, after the German composer, "Handel."

I went back almost 2,000 years and suggested "Hadrian" the Roman emperor who built the famous Northern March or Hadrian's Wall between England and Scotland to keep the barbarian Druids, Scots and Picts away.

As a second choice, I offered "Hilario" after Chief Justice Hilario Davide, a suggestion which Carol quickly supported with an amendment as in "Hilario David" or "Hilario Davide" providing the e-group with Davide's curriculum vitaé.

Going over the Chief Justice's biodata and considering how he has endeared himself to Filipinos, I wasn't a bit worried that hundreds of mothers would take up the offer, so I argued back that the name "Hadrian" is not common and it suggests masculinity, aristocracy, courage and astuteness, bravery, and artistry.

After all, Hadrian was one of Rome's five good emperors and was also a poet and architect.

And so the name game turned serious with Carol reminding Hernan that his second son was born a day after Davide's 65th birthday and "he must be named after the Chief Justice notwithstanding all the '*subpweenas*,' "*jurnals*" and "*adjurnments*" from his vocabulary.

The man, Carol said, must be honored "with the highest commendation."

For patriotism, I was ready to back down but when Carol went further to say that the name could have variants—"Hilario David de la Cruz" and "Hilario Davide de la Cruz"—I thought of two things.

If the child is named "Hilario David de la Cruz," he can sign his name, "Hilario Davide la Cruz" to save on space. But then, if we look at the combination of the names, it could turn out funny because "Hilario" is a Spanish name and "David" is Hebrew. What if the child gets tired spelling out the two names and settles for "H. David" instead? He could attract attention in the same way T.S. Eliot's "J. Alfred Prufrock" did.

On the fourth day, the choice was narrowed down to three: "Hilario David," "Hadrian" and "Handel" out of the 32 names suggested. Hernan and his wife thought "Hilario David" is rather long, ("*malibog unya ang bata kung moeskwela na*") and "Handel" effeminate (whhaaattt?)

And so the winner? You guessed it. Hadrian de la Cruz. How does that sound?

Symphonic? True, that's Latin and Spanish. Nothing hilarious about it, though. "Hadrian," like his predecessor, the Emperor Trajan, and yes, Russell Crowe's fictional Roman General Maximus, were Spanish.

The imperial Latin name won over a Chief Justice's and I know the Chief Justice won't mind this. With his propensity for Latin terms, he'll appreciate the relevance and materiality of the emperor who standardized Roman law throughout the empire. Aside from this, Hadrian's poetry displayed technical prowess although his subject matter bordered on the trivial—a food for thought for senator-entertainers.

But whatever name a parent gives a child, say, "Hercules" even if his legs are spindly, or, "Lovely" even if she isn't, he or she should honor it and learn that signing documents is important.

To this I'd imagine Justice Davide banging hard his gavel to manifest the importance of the statement and I'm sure such a ruling will find its way into the records, objections from the prosecution or the defense overruled.

Angara gets vast powers to run gov't

(From page A1)

ery of public services goes on. There should be no interruption," Angara said.

"Angara is now more powerful" because the PMS—which screens presidential appointees and reviews and makes policy decision—is now under him, said Ernesto Maceda, outgoing ambassador to the United States and perceived to be Angara's rival in Malacañang.

According to Maceda, Angara has more power now than his predecessor, Ronaldo Zamora, who had disputes with former PMS head Lenny de Jesus that resulted in intrigues.

The scope of Angara's powers and responsibilities as "Little President" will be defined in an executive order expected to be issued this week.

If Mr. Estrada signs the order, it will set a historic precedent—for the first time in the history of the republic, the President will clip his vast powers in a last-ditch move to rescue his administration from paralysis under siege.

Spokesperson

The outgoing ambassador might soon stop serving as Mr. Estrada's unofficial spokesperson on the impeachment trial.

Maceda told the INQUIRER that this was inevitable because Mr. Estrada had already appointed his new executive secretary and would soon name the replacement of Ricardo Puno, who quit as press secretary to run for senator in the May elections.

Thus, Maceda said, he would have no more to do in Malacañang.

But he will still have to discuss with the President the matter of leaving his unofficial post, he said.

Maceda said he would soon return to the United States to attend the inauguration of new US President George W. Bush.

He said that this would be his last official act as ambassador, and that he would stay in the United States for about five days.

Maceda earlier said he had thrice declined the offer of the post of executive secretary.

If he had a choice, he said yesterday, he would have preferred the agriculture portfolio, which he described as less stressful.

Maceda said Angara was "the perfect choice" for executive secretary. He denied that there had been any rivalry between the two of them.

As for Fernandez, the 1998 Bar topnotcher who is now the youngest member of the Cabinet, Maceda said she was a good choice.

Fernandez, who trained at Angara's ACCRA law office, worked with him when he was senator.

He also took her in as his chief of staff and assistant agriculture secretary.

Crisis of confidence

Political observers said Angara's appointment was more of a response to the crisis of confidence rocking the Estrada administration than just a decision to fill the vacancy left by Zamora, who is seeking a congressional post in May.

In a memorandum to Angará, Finance Secretary Jose Pardo, now chair of the Economic Coordinating Council (ECC), and Budget Secretary Benjamin Diokno, the President directed them to work out details for "instituting meaningful reforms for a modern presidency" based on "my desire to focus on . peace and order and our continuing war against poverty."

These priorities, he said, required him to devote his time and attention "to the most urgent matters of state."

Before Angara accepted the offer to be executive secretary, he presented a draft order defining his powers.

Political observers interpreted his move to write in fine print conditions defining his relationship with the President as an insurance that Mr. Estrada would not go back on his word to carry out reforms.

They viewed a well-defined contract as Angara's ticket to quit the Cabinet if the President did not live up to it.

At the same time, political observers said Mr. Estrada's concessions indicated how acute was his need to offer a façade of reform and prevent the Cabinet from collapsing under the strain of the impeachment trial.

500 guests

The oath-taking rites for Angara, Fernandez and Panganiban at Malacañang's ceremonial hall started at around 10:15 a.m.

Angara had invited more than 500 persons.

He said he was not worried that he would serve as executive secretary at a time when the President was facing the toughest crisis ever.

"This is only a new beginning for (the President). In the next couple of days, he will fill up the vacant positions in the Cabinet. He will reconstitute the Cabinet," Angara said.

Mr. Estrada has announced that the Cabinet revamp would start next week, with the appointment of two or three more new members.

Angara promised faster and more efficient work at the Office of the President.

He said he was happy that Mr. Estradá decided to appoint as agriculture secretary the man he had recommended.

He said Panganiban, a career official, had been with him from the start in the conceptualization of plans and implementation of projects at the agriculture department.

Angara said he was bringing in only Fernandez and his personal secretary, Olive Bustamante.

"That has been my style all throughout my public life—when I begin at a new office I bring in a minimum number of people and I work with the existing organization and personnel that I find. And I don't intend to change that," he said.

Fernandez told reporters that her youth and idealism would help her in her work in Malacañang.

She said the appointment of Angara as executive secretary was "a very good move for the government."

"It's a little early to speak of changes. But what I do want to say is that it's a good time, it's a new year, new beginnings. There are many good changes that have come," Fernandez said.

Angara said he knew more or less that he would be named executive secretary because the President had been talking to him about it for a long time.

He said that he would not be going back to politics, and that this might be his last stint in the government.

"I have given up on politics. *Ayaw ko na*," Angara he said.

First time

This is the first time since the term of President Manuel Quezon that an executive secretary has laid down the terms of his working relationship with the President.

Historically, the duties and responsibilities of the executive secretary have formally been based on the 1987 Revised Administrative Code.

But political observers said that in practice, the relationship between the President and the executive secretary was defined by the chemistry between them.

They said the scope of the executive secretary's powers and authority had actually been defined by whether he enjoyed the "full confidence" of the President.

The draft order, the final terms of which still being hammered out, said the executive secretary would "assist the President in upholding the utmost levels of professionalism, integrity and transparency" in offices and agencies under the Executive Department and "ensure coordination and consistency of policy."

In addition to carrying out all the powers and functions specified in the Administrative Code, the draft order said the executive secretary would:

- Improve teamwork by acting as overall coordinator for the President on the work of the Cabinet.
- Exercise control and supervision over the Executive Office and staff support system, including the PMS and the offices of the presidential legal counsel, presidential legislative liaison and all presidential assistants and advisers.
- Ensure transparency, integrity and legality in government transactions, and assist and advise the President in issuing executive orders.
- Confirm all presidential orders; evaluate and recommend all appointments for positions requiring presidential appointment; ensure the speedy processing, approval and implementation of major projects and investments of the government in a transparent manner; and submit to the ECC proposals for major police reforms on the economy.

'Your . . .

(From page A1)

Joker Arroyo? Don't take a cab in the afternoon.

Children who are tired of negotiating with their parents to switch to the Cartoon Channel have picked up lines from the trial.

"Your honor, please, cartoons *naman*," they plead—or should we say, petition.

Among corporate executives, breakfast conferences seem to have suddenly become popular than lunch conferences. The latter, however, must end before 2 p.m. and dinners must begin after the trial ends at 8 or are rescheduled for weekends, say people interviewed by the INQUIRER here.

Margie, a beauty parlor attendant in Zamboanga City, said in Chavacano that the trial "is even more exciting than the telenovelas I watch on TV every night."

For Senior Police Officer 4 Benjamin Rada of the PNP Regional Command in Cagayan de Oro City, the trial of President Estrada "beats any TV soap."

After work, Rada rushes home to catch the trial on TV.

Since he misses a major part of the proceedings early in the afternoon, he asks his wife to record the nationally televised trial.

PNP regulations prohibit members of the police force to talk about the impeachment proceedings, whether they are for or against Mr. Estrada's acquittal.

Sidelined

In Cagayan de Oro homes, from the shanties of Barangay Macabalan to the posh villages of Alwana, people are glued to their TV sets on weekday afternoons.

Butch Enerio, a correspondent of a major news daily, complained that editors in Manila pay more attention to the trial than news from provinces.

"There is no correspondent who is not complaining that his or her articles are sidelined by the impeachment trial," he said, describing the situation as "sad."

Reporters in Metro Manila who cover beats other than the trial feel the same way.

Marriz Manuel B. Agbon, vice president of Oro Chamber, said he "gave up HBO and Cinemax for ANC and GMA" to watch the trial and installed another phone line dedicated to the Internet.

Agbon said he had to "reset meetings to mornings to leave afternoons free."

Sports channels

In Iligan City, so keen is the watch that many establishments, restaurants beauty parlors, eateries, schools and households keep their TV sets tuned in to the proceedings.

Since employees of government and private offices are not allowed to watch the trial during office hours, some carry small radios to keep them updated and to inform fellow workers about the developments.

Some banks, however, tune in to sports channels, to make sure that workers are not distracted and transactions will not be affected.

Carmela Demetrio, a graduating history student, recalled that while she was having lunch at the Kanding Station in Barangay Bayug, customers stopped the waitresses from singing along with a videoke, and demanded that the restaurant switch channels to the televised trial

Often, customers discuss the merits of the case against the President, praise and applaud the witnesses but occasionally, slam senator-judges.

But in Sta. Cruz, Davao del Sur Arcadia Maturan does not share the new national passion.

"*Problema na ni Estrada, dili na among problema* (that's Estrada's problem, not ours)," she said.

Dean's office

At the MSU-IIT College of Arts and Social Sciences, a TV set has been temporarily moved to the Dean's office so that students and faculty members, including law students from a neighboring college, can watch the proceedings between classes.

Juliet Lim, a sales counter representative of DHL-Iligan, rues the fact that she cannot watch the trial because of her job. She makes up for it by watching replays on TV as soon as she gets home and by reading the newspapers.

A psychology major at the MSU-IIT, Lim said she took only one course in Political Science but never understood what court proceedings were all about until the live coverage of the impeachment trial.

"Now I can appreciate legal terms better," she said.

Lim said that one of the DHL mail handlers even carries a small TV set along with him to the office to watch the proceedings.

'Leave your sets'

Wendel Avisado, a lawyer, said his work hours have been extended to 12 midnight. "Telephone bills run high as my two daughters in UP and in Butuan would call us for clarification on some issues during the trial."

In Marawi City, some law students of Mindanao State University skip classes just to watch the proceedings.

Some people who do not want to be disturbed tell their callers, "Call again. I'm still attending the trial."

But as Prof. Walden Bello said, the trial "may make for great television, but let us have no illusions. Estrada is likely to be acquitted."

According to Bello, there is "only one way" to make the President step down "and that is for people to leave their television sets and move to the streets to create the critical mass that would force Estrada to resign."

"Audiences do not trigger change, angry crowds do," he said. ***Froilan Gallardo, Christinè Godinez-Ortega, Violeta Gloria, Jonathan F. Ma, Jowel F. Canuday and Carolyn O. Arguillas, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

Sacrifice of innocent for Christians, Muslims

(From page A1)

when he looked back," Villanueva said. "The killer's bullet hit him just above the right corner of his right eye, exiting at the back of his head and piercing the windshield."

Wounded, the driver ran back to the cathedral, yelling for help. One gunman did not escape, felled by the bullets of a militiaman who rushed to the scene.

The motive in the killing is still not known but Abu Sayyaf bandits are being eyed as the culprits.

2nd Benjamin, 2nd Oblate

Fr. Benjie was the second Oblate priest to be shot dead in that town. He was also the second Benjamin. The first was Bishop Benjamin de Jesus who was killed in front of the cathedral in February 1997.

Fr. Benjie's remains were brought to Metro Manila to lie in his family's home in Barrio Ugong, his birthplace. Today they will be flown to Cotabato for interment tomorrow at the OMI cemetery in Barangay Tamontaka, Datu Odin Sinsuat, Maguindanao, where De Jesus was laid to rest in 1997.

Inocencio would have turned 43 on Jan. 17.

Fr. Federico Labaglay, head of the Oblates in the Philippines, said, "This is part of our sacrifice for the sake of better understanding and love among peoples of diverse culture and faith in Jolo."

Military escorts withdrawn

Until October last year, the priests in Jolo, all of them Oblates, had military escorts, following Bishop De Jesus' murder in 1997.

But the rash of kidnappings and hostage-taking by the Abu Sayyaf last year and the military assault that followed led the clergy in Mindanao to express a critical view of the military.

This did not sit well with the government. Many saw the withdrawal of the priests' escorts as a consequence.

"There was the handwriting on the wall," said Fr. Eliseo Mercado OMI, president of Notre Dame of Cotabato, who is deeply involved in the Muslim-Christian dialogue.

He was not using a figure of speech. "It was real. Like '*Umalis kayo*' The danger was real."

Fr. Benjie was Fr. Mercado's student in Islamic Studies. He described the two slain Benjamins as "lambs, lambs-meek lambs being slaughtered."

Island in the sun

Whenever he came to Manila from Mapun Island—and it was not often—Fr. Benjie always brought with him a wad of old, disintegrating peso bills. He exchanged the bills, mostly donations from the poor islanders, for crisp, new ones from the bank.

Getting the new bills thrilled him. He would say, "Ah, now I have *pasalubong* for those back home." He did not think of the money, he thought of the people, the little things that made their faces light up.

Those who helped Fr. Benjie with this little errand knew that this was not about money at all. It gave them an idea of the remoteness of the place that he served.

New things, money included, rarely entered or left Mapun. What the island had, usually stayed, becoming part of the cycle of the seasons and the interweaving of earth, sea and sky.

Mapun had its share of beautiful little secrets not known to many, among them, twin blue lakes that gleamed in the moonlight.

Also known as Cagayan de Tawi-tawi, the island is a dot in the Sulu Sea that can be reached by *lantsa* (launch) or *kumpit* (motorized outrigger) from Zamboanga. The non-stop trip takes anywhere between 24 and 48 hours.

There are no regular trips The *lantsas* leave at *alas-puno*, meaning whenever they're full of passengers or cargo

"Like a mother hen"

Mapun was Fr. Benjie's island in the sun for most of his young priestly life. But, as fate would have it, he was appointed last June to serve as chancellor of the apostolic vicariate of Jolo under Oblate Bishop Angelito Lampon.

"What you see is what you get," Bishop Lampon said of Fr. Benjie "He was sensitive to the needs of others. He was like a mother hen. He would gather his chicks under his wings. He was like a light. He touched lives. He prayed with the Muslims"

The bishop was attending a Culture of Peace Seminar when he heard the news that Fr. Benjie was shot. He rushed to the Sulu Provincial Hospital to find his priest dead, with a sanguine flower blossoming on his right brow

From CPA to Oblate

Fr. Benjie joined the Oblates in 1984. He spent his postulancy and novitiate in Tamontaka in Cotabato. Unlike many who enter the religious life or the seminary, Fr. Benjie joined after he had finished college He was a certified public accountant with work experience. He was sure about what he wanted.

Benjie was the fifth of seven children of the late Alfonso and Amparo Inocencio. He was born and raised in an old portion of Pasig, in what used to be rice lands and is now a cramped neighborhood of homes built closely together

"Our late father tilled a piece of land here," recalled Fr. Benjie's older sister Fely. "My mother worked as a laundry woman. She took in clothes for washing from the dormitories, and we all helped."

Working student

After passing the board exams for accountants, Benjie could have taken a career path that would have given him and his family more income and comfort. But his heart was leading him to a path less traveled.

Benjie was working at the FGU in Makati when he began to feel restless. A senior officemate, Violy Ahorro, recalled Benjie's growing unease. He told her he was drawn to the priesthood and that he was spending sleepless nights thinking about it She advised him to go ahead and follow the call.

"He was a 'victim' of our vocation ads," recalled his bishop and Fr. Armand Cargnan, who heads the Missionary Associates of Mary Immaculate, Inc (MAMI), that helps raise funds for those who wish to become missionaries. The Oblates' magazine ads caught Benjie's eye.

He was ordained on April 25, 1992. His first assignment was in Timanan where he served as parish priest

God's commandos

The first Oblates, mostly Americans, arrived in the Philippines in 1939 and went straight away to Jolo to replace the aging Jesuits They have stayed since, establishing the Notre Dame Schools, parishes and health centers all over Sulu and Tawi-tawi and the northern part of Mindanao

The long written accounts of the first Oblates in those parts are the stuff of thrillers They are both dramatic and hilarious.

Some 150 full-fledged Oblates in the Philippines, the majority of them Filipinos, work in different parts of the Philippines. There are five bishops who are Oblates, among them Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines' head Orlando Quevedo.

The OMI was founded by 1826 in Aix France by Saint Eugene de Mazenod, a count who became a priest among the poor. Some 6,000 Oblates now work in different missions in many parts of the world. There is more to the familiar black sash and cross worn by these men once dubbed as "God's commandos."

The Oblates were the first missionaries "to brave the howling winds of the North Pole to reach the tiny encampments of neglected Indians, Metis and Eskimos." Pope Pius XI called them "specialists in most difficult missions."

Son of Pasig

Fr. Federico Labaglay, Fr. Benjie's OMI superior, said that if justice is not rendered to "our two Benjamins, who came to Jolo to offer love and peace, how can other victims of violence in Jolo get justice?"

Bishop de Jesus' killers have yet to be punished.

Following the murder of Fr. Inocencio, OMI priests assessed the situation of their mission in Jolo.

Labaglay admitted that among the missionaries, "fear is becoming more real" although he ruled out the possibility of a pull out or reassignment of priests.

Fr. Benjie's younger sister Lory said her brother had planned for their whole family to go Mindanao for a holiday some time this year.

"We had never been to the places where he had been assigned. All we heard from him were stories. When he came he would bring durian, mangosteen and *daing* from Mindanao. He did not write much."

But when Fr. Benjie was in town, Lory added, he loved to stay at home in the Inocencio's small home, cooking for the family and playing with the kids.

He loved the place where he grew up even if it had changed. He was proud of it. And as Barrio Ugong welcomes Fr. Benjie home for the last time, it is proud of him. ***With reports from Edwin O. Fernandez and Carolyn O. Arguillas, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

Boy in blast to be gifted with artificial leg

(From page A1)

to be "Joel," was later identified as Roweno.

"He's still a boy, and he was badly wounded. The doctors must have heard the names wrong," said the nurse.

Rosalea sought the help of the ABS-CBN TV network to get to her son's bedside.

She presented copies of her and Roweno's marriage certificate as well as Joe Marwin's birth certificate, and described to hospital authorities the clothes her son was wearing on that fateful afternoon.

Rosalea said that on Dec. 30, father and son were on their way to the house of Roweno's brother in Valenzuela City for a visit.

"I would have readily recognized Joe Marwin even if his face is bloodied and burned," she was quoted as saying.

Missed reunions

There are more wrenching stories from the LRT bombing survivors now confined at the Jose Reyes Memorial Medical Center.

Laundrywoman Aileen Linggolinggo, 31, a resident of Bacoor, Cavite, was to attend the wake for her estranged spouse in Punturing, Valenzuela.

Part-time fisherman Felix Quasay, 55, had just come from Calatagan, Batangas, and was anticipating a Christmas reunion with his wife Luningning, their seven children aged 20 to 29, and their grandchildren at their house in Tanong, Malabon.

Neither reunion—one sad, the other joyful—took place.

Quasay lost his right eye, and doctors fear he may lose the other. The explosion also seared his face and crushed his left cheekbone.

"If I'm to be asked, this thing has already happened, so I should accept my fate," he told the INQUIRER.

"But the people who did this should face the law, and if I cannot fight them because I'm a poor man, then let the Lord take care of them."

Quasay remembered hearing "a loud 'krrrt,' not a bang," when the bomb went off in LRT Coach 1037.

"Then I felt as if I were floating in the air," he said. "I couldn't see anything, but I heard—and will never forget—the wailing of the wounded and the dying."

Quasay said he might have seen the man who left the bomb in a bag at the Tayuman Station.

Police have released an artist's sketch of a man supposedly aged between 30 and 35, five feet and five inches tall, brown-complexioned, and dressed in a white shirt and blue jeans.

But Quasay, who was seated on the left-side fourth seat behind the coach driver, said he could remember only one passenger alighting from the coach in Tayuman.

"The man had cropped hair and wore a chocolate-colored polo shirt," he said. "I'm sure because I took the seat he had vacated."

"If only I can see," he added, "I may be able to describe that person to an artist."

Broken dream

For the past three years, Aileen has found a new partner in Danny Linggolinggo, 27.

The childless couple has been hoping to build a family, but the bomb explosion broke that dream.

ERIK ARAZAS

CENTENNIAL celebration of the Western Police District includes a medical mission for the residents of Anak Bayan, San Andres, Manila.

Danny has since been forced to quit his job as a *pahinante* (helper in a trucking service) to tend to Aileen.

"I was so worried when she did not come home that night," recalled Danny, who was on the job in Bulacan when the explosion occurred.

He said he saw her name in the newspapers the next morning.

"We are struggling to survive here in the city, and now this happened," he lamented.

According to Dr. Vlabir Singayan, physician in charge of the hospital's burn unit, Aileen is suffering third-degree burns on 42 percent of her body, and is still in critical condition.

"Infection is her biggest problem, so we are doing our best. But it is hard to predict what her chances of surviving are," Singayan said.

It was also the danger of infection that compelled doctors at the Chinese General Hospital to amputate Joe Marwin's badly mangled left leg.

"If people still want to help, they can provide financial assistance to the Torlao family," PGH's Yap said in a phone interview, noting that Joe Marwin's father died in the explosion.

As it was, Rosalea Torlao was attending to her husband's wake yesterday afternoon.

Blame

In Tacloban City, the family of Rowena Chua, one of those who died in the bomb attacks, is blaming the LRT management and the Estrada administration for her death.

Rowena's mother, Showtee, said the bombings would not have happened had government officials been "serious in their commitment to do their job, and true to their word that they would protect the needs of the people."

"What's the use of (the LRT) security guards? Where were they when the incident happened?" she said.

Showtee also said she could not understand why it took rescuers five hours to retrieve Rowena's body when her other daughter, Rhodora, was rescued three hours earlier.

The sisters, along with their 4-year-old niece Eunice Cañete and cousin Joanne Go, went to Manila on Dec. 26 to attend a cousin's wedding the next day.

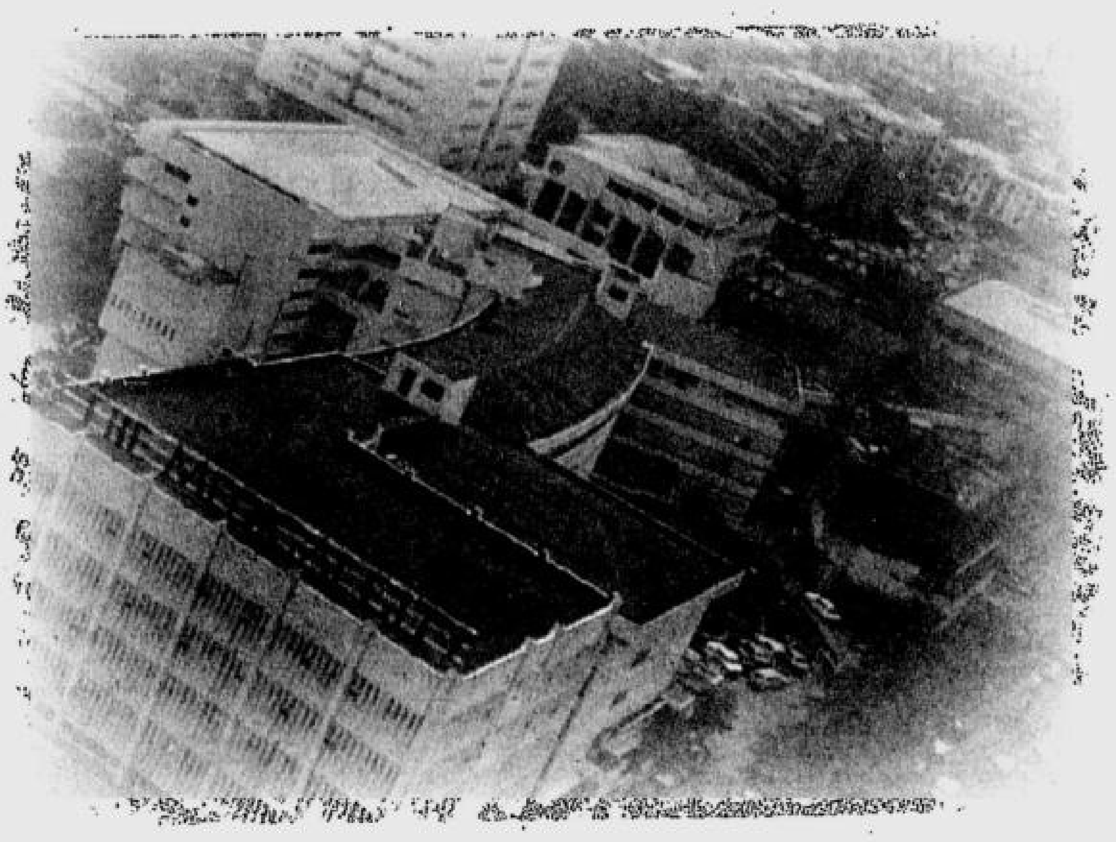
On Dec. 30, the four went off to go shopping at Robinson's Manila on Pedro Gil Street but lost their way. They made the fatal mistake of taking the LRT bound for Blumentritt.

Rowena and Eunice died instantly in the explosion. Eunice was buried at the Chinese cemetery in Tacloban on Jan. 3, and Rowena, on Friday morning.

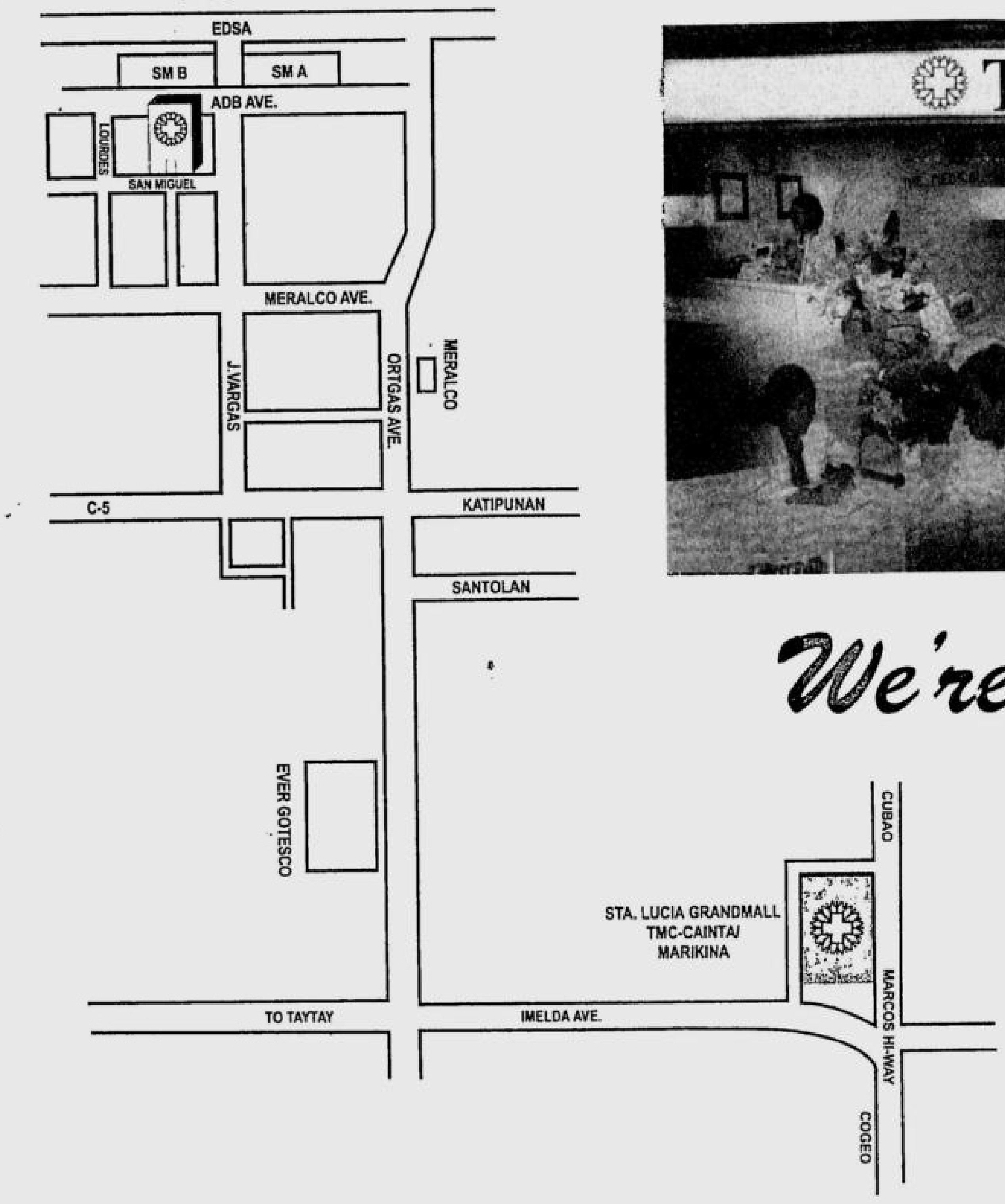
Rhodora and Joanne are still being treated at the Metropolitan Hospital in Binondo, Manila.

The entire Chua family, except for Jun, Rowena's elder brother who is based in the United States, was present at her funeral.

The mother said Rowena had many unfulfilled dreams, like becoming a certified public accountant. She was planning to review for the CPA board exams in July. ***With a report from Cynthia A. Borgueta, PDI Visayas Bureau***



Constantly moving forward
in putting
patient on center stage
and delivering service of greater worth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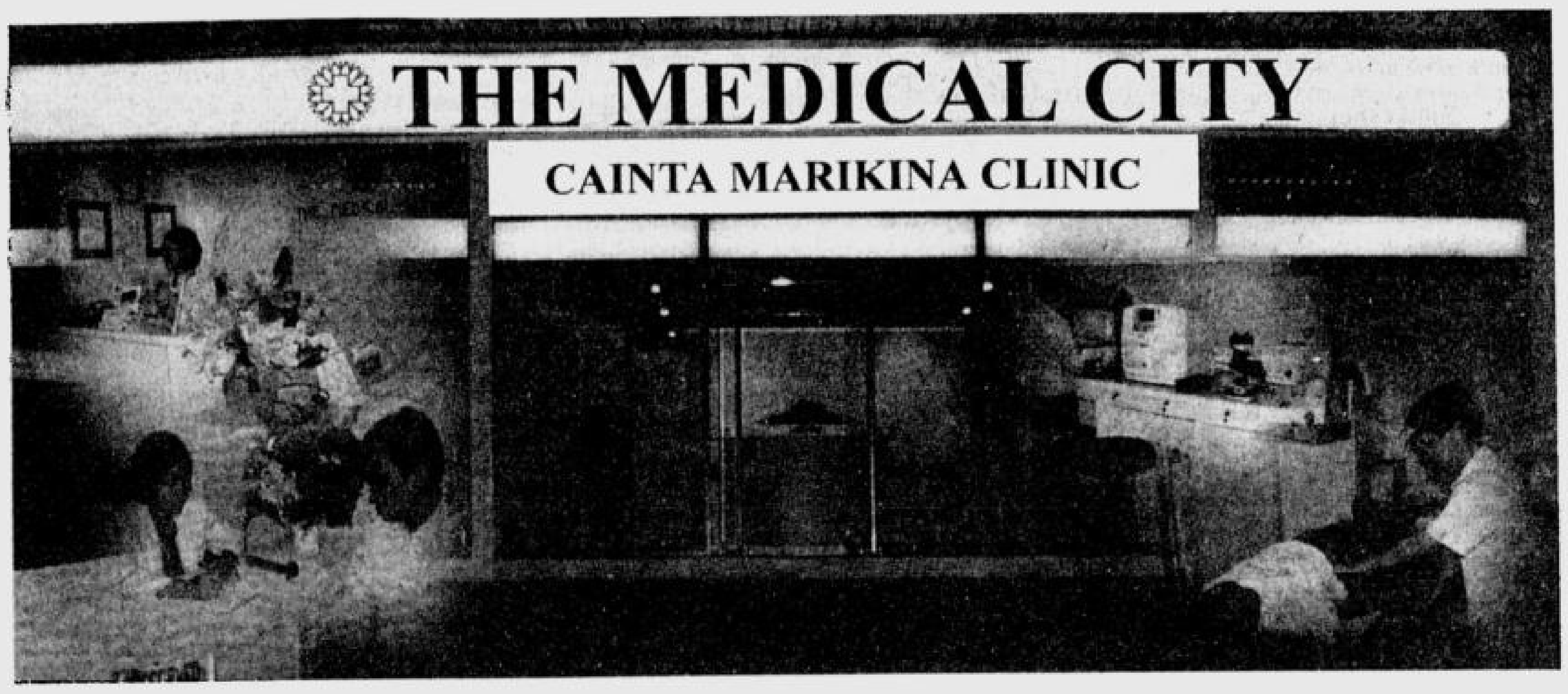
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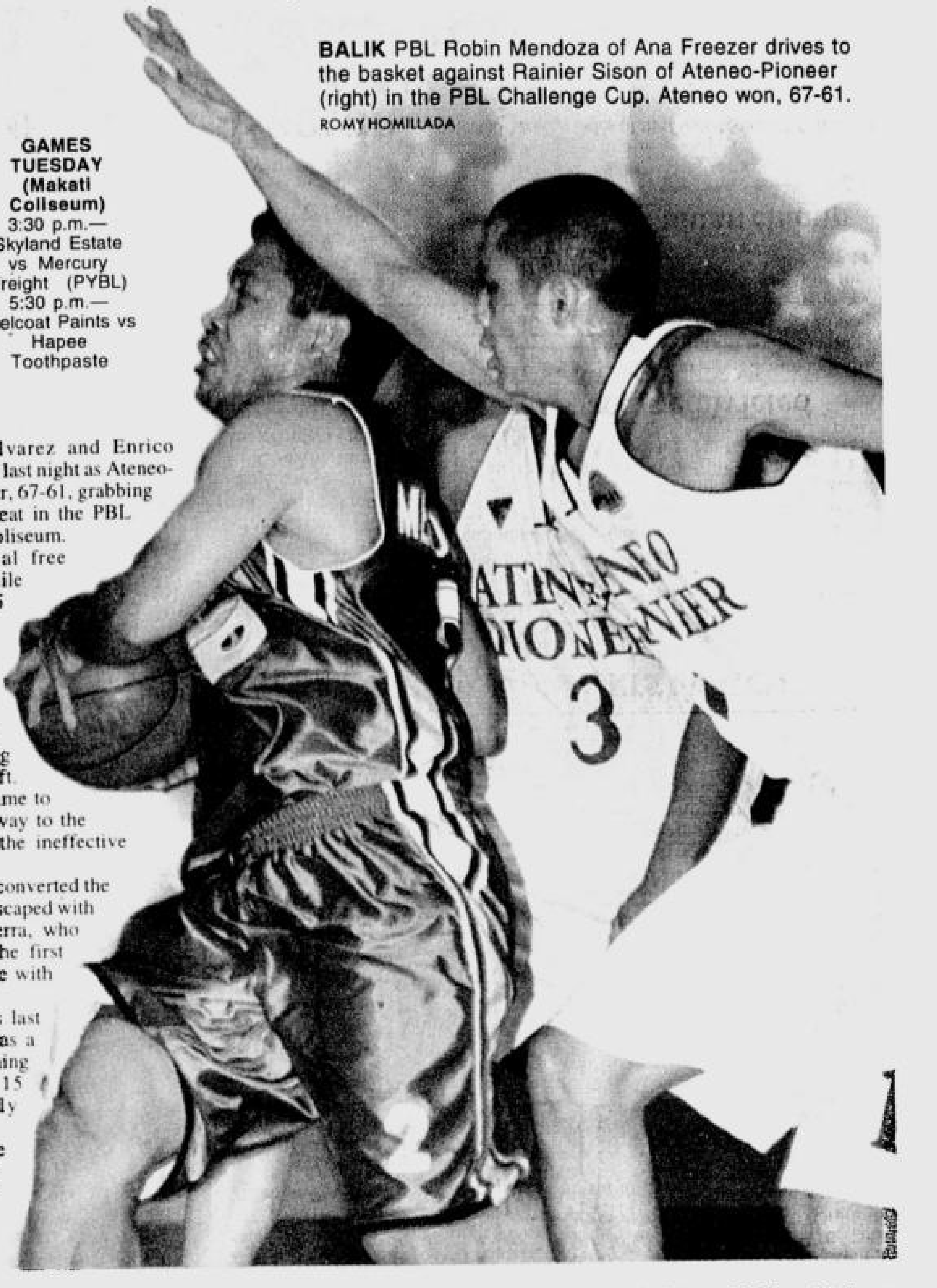
BASKETBALL: NBA Inside Stuff at 7:30 a.m. (r) on Star Sports
US NCAA—Wake Forest Demon Deacons vs North Carolina Tar Heels at 10 a.m. on ESPN
Chinese National Basketball League at 11 a.m. (r) on Star Sports

Sunday **SPORTS**
AL S. MENDOZA, Editor **EDWIN M. VILLANUEVA**, Assistant Editor

NO "Spectator" and "One Winner" columns today due to space constraints.

Ateneo nips Ana, earns PBL slot



BALIK PBL Robin Mendoza of Ana Freezer drives to the basket against Rainier Sison of Ateneo-Pioneer (right) in the PBL Challenge Cup. Ateneo won, 67-61.
ROMY HOMILLADA

STANDINGS	W	L
Shark	8	2
Welcoat	7	3
Blu	6	4
Montaña	6	4
Hapee	5	5
Ateneo-Pioneer	4	6*
Ana Freezer	4	6
Osaka	3	7
PharmaQuick	2	8

*beats Ana Freezer in playoff

GAMES TUESDAY (Makati Coliseum)
3:30 p.m.—Skyland Estate vs Mercury Freight (PYBL)
5:30 p.m.—Welcoat Paints vs Hapee Toothpaste

By Dennis U. Eroa

POWER-PLAYING Rich Alvarez and Enrico Villanueva did the most damage last night as Ateneo-Pioneer turned back Ana Freezer, 67-61, grabbing the sixth and final semifinal seat in the PBL Challenge Cup at the Makati Coliseum.

Alvarez sank three crucial free throws in the dying seconds while conspiring with the 6-foot-5 Villanueva in routing the Freezer Specialists in the middle, giving Ateneo-Pioneer the upper hand in the winner-take-all encounter.

Ana last threatened at 62-61 on a layup by comebacking Robin Mendoza, 53 seconds left.

But the 6-foot-3 Alvarez came to the rescue as he barreled his way to the basket, drawing a foul from the ineffective Marvin Ortiguerra.

Braving the jeers, Alvarez converted the gift shots and the Blue Eagles escaped with the crucial win when Ortiguerra, who previously hurt his knee in the first half, added to Ana's nightmare with an ill-timed three-pointer.

Ortiguerra was playing his last game as an amateur and it was a forgettable stint. He scored nothing and his four rebounds in 15 minutes of action hardly mattered.

The Blue Eagles came to the ballgame determined to come back after a bitter loss to arch-rival Osaka Iridology. Ateneo trailed, 0-10, at the start, but soon regained its bearing with its masterful set plays.

Ateneo's UP connection also boosted the Blue Eagles' bid.

Playing his finest game this conference, Dexter Racho erupted with 13 points, including eight in the action-packed third quarter.

Edrick Ferrer, another UP mainstay, also orchestrated the Blue Eagles' backcourt effectively. He contributed six points.

Villanueva had a monster game, firing 14 points and grabbing 15 rebounds. Alvarez collared 8 rebounds, one short of Racho's output.

SCORES: (Second Game)

Ateneo-Pioneer 67—Villanueva 14, Racho 13, Alvarez 13, Sison 12, Ferrer 6, Bugia 4, Gonzales 2, Tan Chi 0.

Ana Freezer 61—Capus 14, Mendez 10, Pascual 8, Vilar 7, Agleron 6, De Castro 6, Mendoza R. 6, Tubid 2, Rodriguez 2, Mendoza 0, Oreta 0.

Quarters: 22-10, 34-32, 49-46, 67-61.

Jalasco snubbed by board

By Roy Luarca

THE NEW leadership of the Basketball Association of the Philippines is going to officially inform the Philippine Olympic Committee of its takeover of the association's functions tomorrow.

"We will submit the papers and minutes of the meeting on Monday," said lawyer Boni Alentajan, elected BAP executive vice president. "We still haven't made any communication with POC president Celso Dayrit."

Aside from the POC, Alentajan said they would also furnish the Securities and Exchange Commission and the Fiba (International Basketball Federation) of the BAP's new set of officers.

The BAP national board stripped Freddie Jalasco of the presidency last Dec. 22, choosing erstwhile chair Lito Puyat to replace him.

Former Region III director Antonio Angeles was elected new chair.

Jalasco later filed a complaint with the POC, alleging that the election was illegal and violated the BAP rules and by-laws.

Dayrit then formed an investigate committee to look into the leadership squabble plaguing the BAP and also that of cycling and weightlifting.

"That (to complain) is his privilege. He can complain, but whether it will be attended to is another matter" said Aleptajan. "Definitely, he has lost the moral authority to govern."

Alentajan was referring to the snubbing of the members of the executive board of the meeting called by Jalasco yesterday.

GAB killing PBL–Trinidad

THE PBL (Philippine Basketball League) yesterday said the GAB (Games and Amusements Board) ruling declaring the league as "professional" is "grossly erroneous."

PBL Commissioner Chino Trinidad said "it will signal the death of amateur basketball."

In a one-page statement distributed yesterday to the PBL Press Corps, the PBL added that the league will appeal to the Office of the President for a revoke of GAB resolution 9810.

"The resolution does not define what the meaning of professional league is. Traditionally, a professional sports association is organized for a profit which the PBL is not," Trinidad said.

Trinidad and board chair Dioceldo Sy met with their lawyers yesterday at the Makati Coliseum.

"This ruling means college players will no longer be able to compete," said Trinidad. "The PBL has been a source of national pride as it provides the country with future national players."

The statement said the PBL has gained the respect of the sporting world without government intervention.

"To cite Article 5 of Resolution 9810," said Trinidad, "less government is best government.

"For the past 17 years, the PBL has stood by its commitment in nurturing the vision of former Ambassador Danding Cojuangco, which aims to develop amateur basketball." ***Dennis U. Eroa***

Funboard Cup sails today in Bulabog

TOP Asian funboarders and some of the world's rising surfing stars put their focus on Boracay as the next most important site for windsurfing activities as the Cutty Sark Funboard Cup, second leg of the 2000-2001 Asian Windsurfing Tour, sails today from Bulabog Beach until Jan. 13.

This will be the second time this world famous island of Aklan will play host to the Asian Windsurfing Tour after the success of last year's event, which brought together an unprecedented 125 surfers from 17 countries, 60 of whom will return to test the waves of Boracay and help promote the island as the next windsurfing capital of Southeast Asia.

Cutty Sark brand manager Chiqui Torres-Tan also said the event is being held to help promote Philippine tourism and tap erstwhile unknown venues for sports activities which are popular with the young and adventurous sportsmen and women.

"Boracay is already famous for its white sand beaches but we are promoting it as a windsurfing haven, what with its consistent 12-20 knot on-shore wind which for professional windsurfers and hobbyists is perfect," Torres-Tan said. "Cutty Sark has always been associated with the seas. And all over the world, we are also associated with the young and adventurous. It is only fitting for Cutty Sark to promote this year's international windsurfing event in Boracay."

Funboarders from Guam, Saipan, Korea, Japan, Diego Garcia, Australia, Italy, The Netherlands, United States and a host of local participants will vie for this year's championship.

Non-competition activities and nightly parties are also set for competitors and non-participants alike.

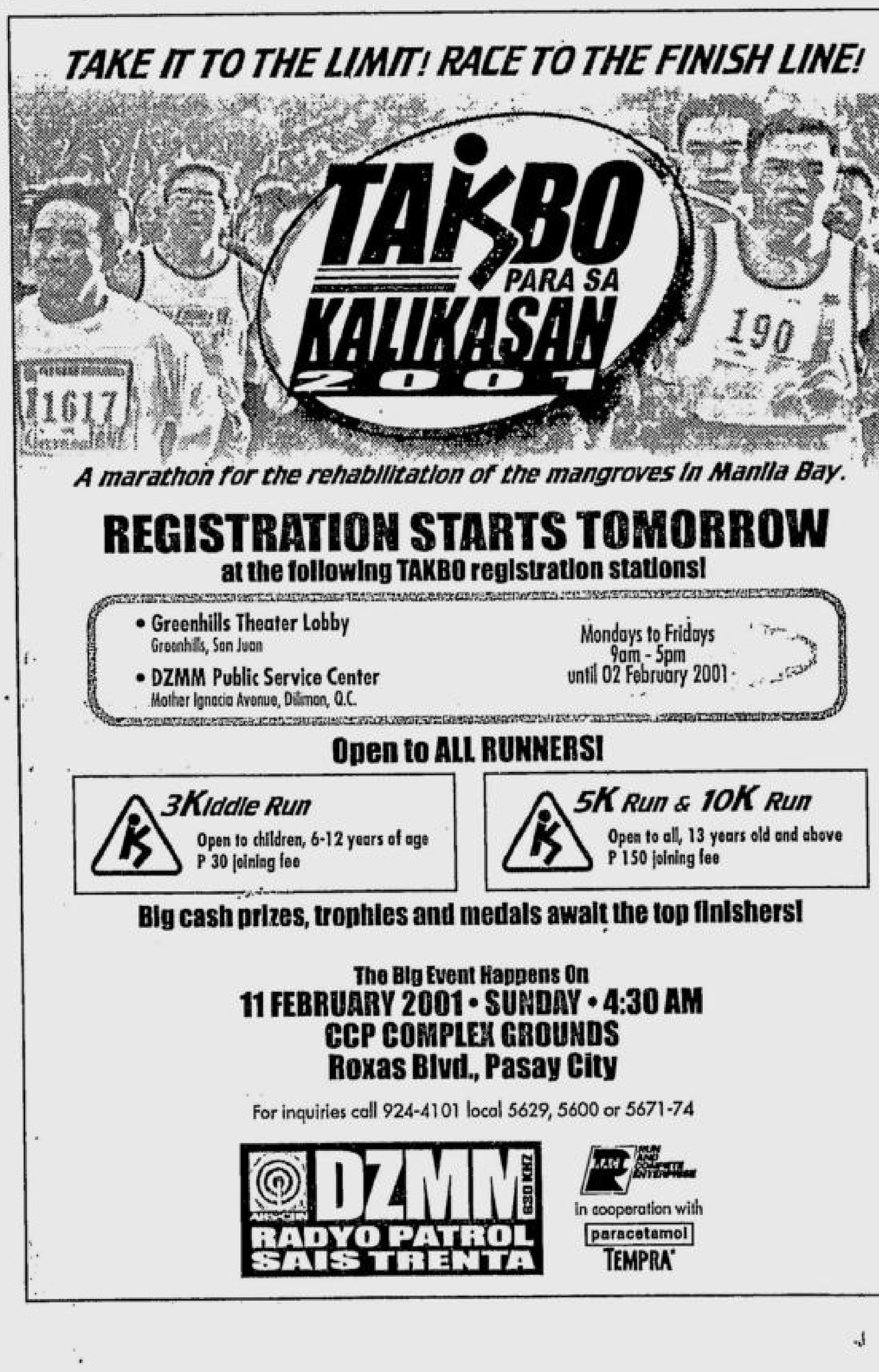
The event is sanctioned by the Asian Windsurfing circuit and made it part of the Tour which will also visit the prime beaches of Taiwan, Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia and Saipan in the Micronesian Island.

Barkley's jersey 34 to be retired

PHILADELPHIA, Pennsylvania—Former National Basketball Association star forward Charles Barkley, who retired at the end of last season, will have his number 34 retired by the Philadelphia 76ers on March 30. The club said here Friday that Barkley—one of only three players with 20,000 points, 10,000 rebounds and 4,000 assists—will become the seventh player in team history to have his jersey retired. Other 76ers to have their numbers retired are Wilt Chamberlain (13), Julius Erving (6), Maurice Cheeks (10), Hal Greer (15), Billy Cunningham (32) and Bobby Jones (24). ***AFP***

NBA Complete Results

Philadelphia 121, Seattle 89; Dallas 115, Toronto 105; Golden State 100, Boston 88; Denver 100, Utah 87; Phoenix 108, Vancouver 76 ***Reuters***



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Alabang Mango Tee Feb. 1-4

THE MANGO Tee, the annual fairway bash of the Alabang Country Club, will be held Feb. 1-4 with an expected full-packed roster of 250 teams seeing action.

Two cars from Mitsubishi Motors Philippines, golf cars, major appliances and golf equipment will be at stake as hole-in-one, tournament and raffle prizes.

Smart Communications is again supporting the member-guest invitational.

The other sponsors are Golforce, Gainers Marketing, Speedpack, Security Bank/Diners Club, Standard Chartered Bank, Supreme Construction, Manila Standard, Maisog, GG&A, Guthrie Jenzen, Arizona Ice Tea, YKK Inc., Design Packaging, Sharexchange, Mixconstruct, DPCI, Andi Tabusalla, Philippine Airlines, Federal Express, Pacsports, San Miguel Beer Group and Joseph Rice Mill. Outback is providing food for the awards.

Chair Godofredo Galindez Jr. said that time-tested partnerships make up the bulk of the participants.

"It's always the renewal of old ties that becomes the foremost objective. The competitive spirit will be there of course but a Mango Tee is really all for friendship's sake," said Galindez.

Joining Galindez in the organizing committee are Francis Jimenez (finance), Rene Garovillo (handicap), Butch Brodett (rules), Babes Guilatco (logistics), Jimmy General (prizes and giveaways) and Dindo Ibazeta (entertainment).

The club leadership headed by ACCI president Vic Guzman, chair of the board Gov. Joey Laurel, golf committee chair Gerry Handog and general manager Romy Laig are also throwing their full support behind the organizing body.

Entry fee is P6,000 inclusive of a package of giveaways (jacket and windbuster umbrella), cocktails and a free practice round.

PLDT Int'l Junior golfest top sponsor

THE PHILIPPINE Long Distance Telephone Company, one of the country's premier telecommunications giants, is the 4th Philippine International Junior Golf Championship's title sponsor.

Edgardo "Boy" Cantada, president of the organizing Philippine Junior Golf Federation, bared this yesterday. He said the event will begin on Jan. 16 at Wack Wack.

Other sponsors of the annual event are Cebu Pacific as official carrier of the Philippine team's regional players, Outback Steakhouse, Milo, Bingo Bonanza, Mitsubishi Motors, Bi Won Korean Restaurant, Hermie Esguerra, Rizal Rep. Gilberto Duavit, UCPB General Insurance, Swift Hotdogs, Gatorade, Arce Ice Cream, Sarsi, Nestea, Cowhead Milk, General Aggregates and Concrete Inc., Philippine Hattori Construction and Edsa Shangri-La, the official hotel.

"I would like to express my gratitude to PLDT for agreeing to be the title sponsor this year," Cantada said. "So the event will be known as the 4th PLDT Philippine International Junior Golf Championships."

Aside from the Philippines, the countries and territories seeing action are United States, Australia, Guam, Indonesia, Thailand, Sri Lanka, Taiwan, South Korea, Singapore, Malaysia, Sarawak, Sabah, China and Hong Kong.

Rotarians to play in Baguio

NO less than 300 Rotarians from all over the country are expected to converge in Baguio City for the 15th staging of the Rotary Golfing Fellowship Foundation of the Philippines Golf Tournament on Feb. 8-10.

The 36-hole tourney spread out in three days will be held at the Camp John Hay and the Baguio Country Club courses.

Registration for the event is ongoing and will end on Jan. 29. Tournament fee is P5,000 inclusive of green fees, the welcome cocktails and awards dinner, giveaways and raffle prizes.

Interested participants may inquire from Ditas Serapio or Theresa Romero of the RGFFP secretariat tel. nos. 721-0564 and 721-8896 or fax no. 721-5940.

The team captain's meeting and the welcome cocktails will precede the event on the evening of Feb. 7.

The Baguio leg is one of the three major events in the RGFFP calendar which also includes another stop in the south, tentatively slated in Davao this year and the international Asean Rotary tilt.

RP-Japan Slo-pitch game today

AFTER its inaugural staging last year, the Philippine Amateur Baseball Association (Paba) and the Embassy of Japan will meet anew in the second edition of the Philippine-Japan slo-pitch friendship game today at San Lorenzo Village softball field. The one game affair is set at 10 a.m. with the Japanese eyeing to even-up matters with Paba officials who won their first meeting last year, 5-4.

SPORTS WATCH

Els wins again

MELBOURNE, Australia—Ernie Els putted like a two-time US Open champion, which was enough to get him into the semifinals of the Match Play Championship on Saturday. Clinging to a one-hole lead, Els made five consecutive crucial putts to keep his cushion and then buried American Craig Stadler with an 18-foot birdie on the final hole for a 1-up victory at Metropolitan Golf Club. ***AP***

Tiger impostor convicted

SACRAMENTO, California —A Sacramento man has been convicted of using Tiger Woods' identity to apply for credit cards and accrue about $ 17,000 in unpaid expenses. Anthony Taylor, 31, who was convicted Thursday, had a prior conviction for a 1992 robbery. ***AP***

Switzerland Hopman champ

PERTH, Australia—Switzerland won the Hopman Cup mixed team tennis championship Saturday as Martina Hingis, making her fourth attempt to claim the title, defeated Monica Seles of the United States 7-5, 6-4. ***AP***

RACING TIPS

AT SAN LAZARO BY MR. 999

Race 1—1. Real Good Times 2. Royal Diamond 3. Feast of Diamond 4. Cobra Door
Race 2—1. Breakaway 2. Dixie Melody 3. Strong Wind
Race 3—1. Reine Margaux 2. Golden Figure 3. Patago 4. Power Pack
Race 4—1. Decastar 2. Storm Rising 3. Black Force 4. Standout
Race 5—1. Marvelous Jay 2. Raise A Fire 3. Suterian Era
Race 6—1. Aly Sam 2. Freshman 3. Sham Sham 4. Neo
Race 7—1. Sun City 2. Coventina 3. Bogart
Race 8—1. Something Best 2. Baby My Beloved 3. Speed of Light 4. Clear Night Sky
Race 9—1. Houdini 2. Royal Angel 3. Sweet Annifer
Race 10—1. Key to Heaven/The Mailman 2. Steel Wheel 3. Made to Order
Race 11—1. Running Indy 2. Jackpot Baby 3. Silver Lining 4. El Condorl
Race 12—1. Filthy Rich 2. Geewhiz 3. Three of Heart 4. Forest Dancer
Race 13—1. Arc de Triomphe 2. Something Silver 3. Miss Sleween 4. Foreign Exchange
Race 14—1. Silent Heat 2. Perfect Gift 3. Penlace 4. Mikey's Cure

A life for a shirt

POLICE are looking for a shirt vendor they identified only as Jerry, who allegedly stabbed to death battery repairman Leonardo de la Cruz, 49, Thursday night in Tondo, Manila. De la Cruz was attacked because he could not pay for a P160-shirt he bought on credit from Jerry. *Jerome Aning*

METRO
LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

Blast victims identified

THE MAN and the woman who were killed in a grenade explosion in their home near the Payatas dumpsite in Quezon City on Friday were identified as jeepney driver Junel Yasas, 45, and his live-in partner Cherry. Police said they must have been grappling for possession of the grenade when it exploded. *Philip C. Tubeza*

People power stops 32 dump trucks in Pampanga, Bulacan

By Tonette Orejas and Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk; Nereo C. Lujan and Hazel P. Villa, PDI Visayas Bureau

RESIDENTS and local officials in Pampanga and Bulacan on Friday stopped 32 trucks from dumping in their backyards garbage from Metro Manila.

On Semirara Island in Antique province, where the garbage was supposed to be shipped, tension ran high among residents when the second barge containing unsegregated trash from Metro Manila arrived yesterday even after the Antique Regional Trial Court issued a temporary restraining order (TRO).

About 200 angry residents of Barangay Santa Catalina, Minalin, Pampanga clambered up 26 dump trucks belonging to a Korean contractor and stopped the drivers from unloading garbage that had been collected in Caloocan City, Malabon, Navotas and Valenzuela City.

Other residents formed human barricades to prevent the trucks from entering a private lot reportedly owned by a brother-in-law of Minalin Mayor Santiago Yabut near the San Francisco dike in Santa Catalina.

Minalin police chief Senior Insp. Fernando Gonzales yesterday filed charges against the contractor and had the trucks impounded.

All the trucks were covered with heavy plastic sheets. Some were dripping with garbage ooze.

One of the residents, grade

PEOPLE POWER/ A18

OPLAN LINIS BAYAN
PROJECT OF
ISMAEL "CHUCK" MATHAY III
CHAIRMAN

AND the trash keeps piling up in Quezon City and in many other parts of the metropolis.

EDWIN BACASMAS

Bags left behind in Quiapo Church, cab trigger scare

By Jerome Aning

THREE bags left on different occasions in Quiapo Church and a fourth one abandoned in a taxi triggered more bomb scare in Manila yesterday and on Friday.

In Sampaloc, traffic on C. M. Recto Avenue, Legarda and Mendiola streets ground to a halt for about half an hour after two passengers jumped out of a taxi, followed by the driver who approached a traffic en-

BAGS LEFT/ A18

Pinoy Times
SPECIAL EDITION #12
BASAHIN SA ISYUNG ITO:
• Batas militar o state of emergency? pp.6-8
• Biwaga sa pirma ni Velarde inurirat p.10
• May mga tunay na Jose Velarde! p.11
Miriam's Erapsyon: LAYAS!
ROSANNA FORES
DANTE JIMENEZ
BETTINA ABOITIZ

Miriam's targets

DID they, or didn't they?

This question is answered in Pinoy Times Special Edition No. 12 by Rosanna Tuason Fores, Bettina Araneta Aboitiz and Dante La. Jimenez, the three members of the audience who were forced to leave the impeachment trial of President Estrada after Senator-Judge Miriam Defensor Santiago accused them of casting "provocative looks" in her direction.

Other stories in the issue include two opposing views on the likely verdict on Estrada, meetings with a real Jose Velarde and Joseph Velarde, recollections of martial law, and an expert's off-hand views on the handwriting on the Velarde bank documents.

The issue is now on sale at newsstands and from newsboys all over the country. The current issues as well as back issues of Pinoy Times Special Edition are available also at Pinoy Times offices which can be reached through telephone numbers 912-98-22 and 912-97-22.

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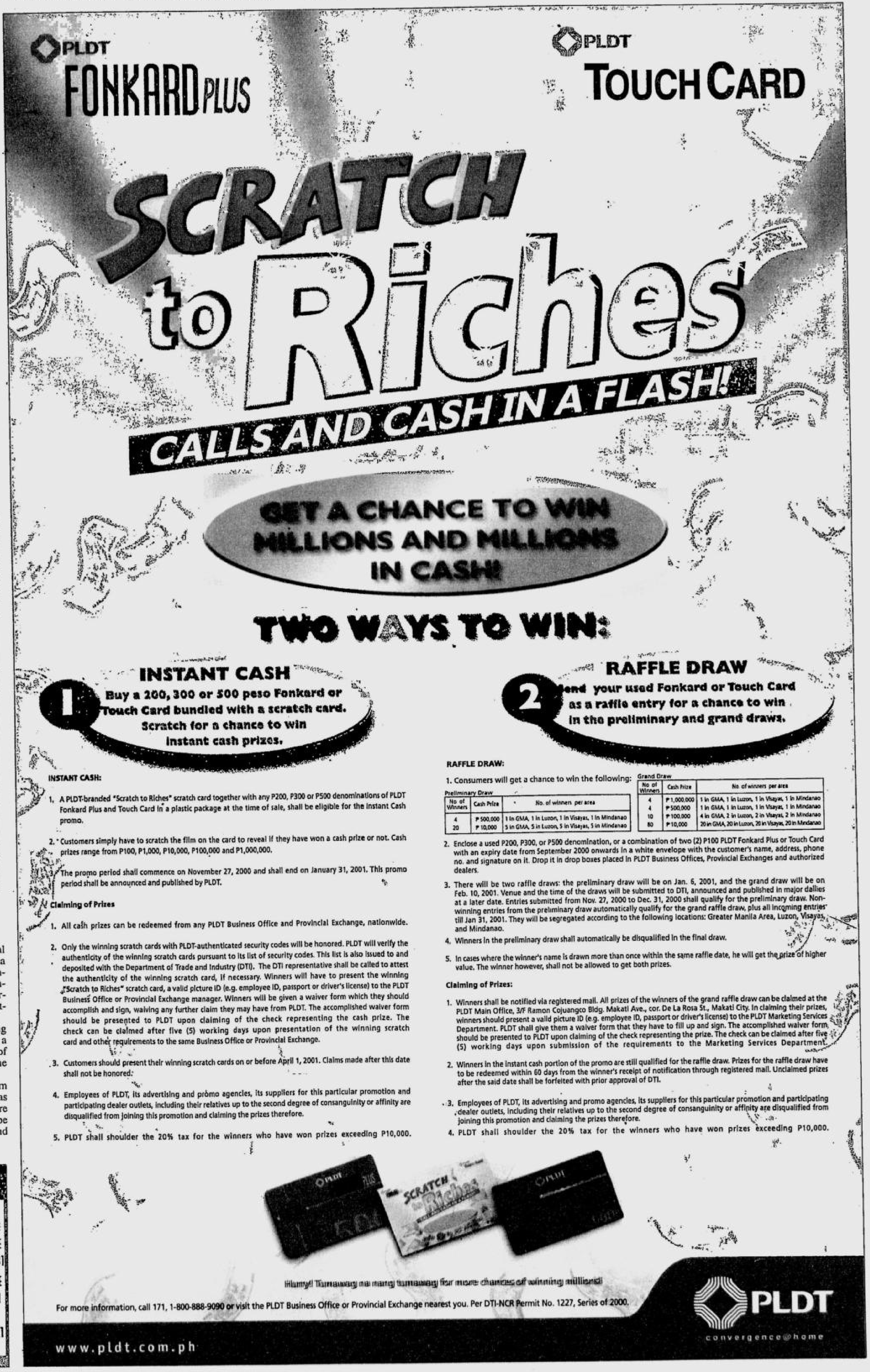
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2 RAFFLE DRAW
Send your used Fonkard or Touch Card as a raffle entry for a chance to win in the preliminary and grand draws.

INSTANT CASH:

1. A PLDT-branded "Scratch to Riches" scratch card together with any P200, P300 or P500 denominations of PLDT Fonkard Plus and Touch Card in a plastic package at the time of sale, shall be eligible for the Instant Cash promo.
2. Customers simply have to scratch the film on the card to reveal if they have won a cash prize or not. Cash prizes range from P100, P1,000, P10,000, P100,000 and P1,000,000.
3. The promo period shall commence on November 27, 2000 and shall end on January 31, 2001. This promo period shall be announced and published by PLDT.

Claiming of Prizes

1. All cash prizes can be redeemed from any PLDT Business Office and Provincial Exchange, nationwide.
2. Only the winning scratch cards with PLDT-authenticated security codes will be honored. PLDT will verify the authenticity of the winning scratch cards pursuant to its list of security codes. This list is also issued to and deposited with the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI). The DTI representative shall be called to attest the authenticity of the winning scratch card, if necessary. Winners will have to present the winning "Scratch to Riches" scratch card, a valid picture ID (e.g. employee ID, passport or driver's license) to the PLDT Business Office or Provincial Exchange manager. Winners will be given a waiver form which they should accomplish and sign, waiving any further claim they may have from PLDT. The accomplished waiver form should be presented to PLDT upon claiming of the check representing the cash prize. The check can be claimed after five (5) working days upon presentation of the winning scratch card and other requirements to the same Business Office or Provincial Exchange.
3. Customers should present their winning scratch cards on or before April 1, 2001. Claims made after this date shall not be honored.
4. Employees of PLDT, its advertising and promo agencies, its suppliers for this particular promotion and participating dealer outlets, including their relatives up to the second degree of consanguinity or affinity are disqualified from joining this promotion and claiming the prizes therefore.
5. PLDT shall shoulder the 20% tax for the winners who have won prizes exceeding P10,000.

RAFFLE DRAW:

1. Consumers will get a chance to win the following:

Preliminary Draw

No. of Winners	Cash Prize	No. of winners per area
4	₱500,000	1 in GMA, 1 in Luzon, 1 in Visayas, 1 in Mindanao
20	₱10,000	5 in GMA, 5 in Luzon, 5 in Visayas, 5 in Mindanao

Grand Draw

No. of Winners	Cash Prize	No. of winners per area
4	₱1,000,000	1 in GMA, 1 in Luzon, 1 in Visayas, 1 in Mindanao
4	₱500,000	1 in GMA, 1 in Luzon, 1 in Visayas, 1 in Mindanao
10	₱100,000	4 in GMA, 2 in Luzon, 2 in Visayas, 2 in Mindanao
80	₱10,000	20 in GMA, 20 in Luzon, 20 in Visayas, 20 in Mindanao

2. Enclose a used P200, P300, or P500 denomination, or a combination of two (2) P100 PLDT Fonkard Plus or Touch Card with an expiry date from September 2000 onwards in a white envelope with the customer's name, address, phone no. and signature on it. Drop it in drop boxes placed in PLDT Business Offices, Provincial Exchanges and authorized dealers.
3. There will be two raffle draws: the preliminary draw will be on Jan. 6, 2001, and the grand draw will be on Feb. 10, 2001. Venue and the time of the draws will be submitted to DTI, announced and published in major dailies at a later date. Entries submitted from Nov. 27, 2000 to Dec. 31, 2000 shall qualify for the preliminary draw. Non-winning entries from the preliminary draw automatically qualify for the grand raffle draw, plus all incoming entries till Jan 31, 2001. They will be segregated according to the following locations: Greater Manila Area, Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao.
4. Winners in the preliminary draw shall automatically be disqualified in the final draw.
5. In cases where the winner's name is drawn more than once within the same raffle date, he will get the prize of higher value. The winner however, shall not be allowed to get both prizes.

Claiming of Prizes:

1. Winners shall be notified via registered mail. All prizes of the winners of the grand raffle draw can be claimed at the PLDT Main Office, 3/F Ramon Cojuangco Bldg. Makati Ave., cor. De La Rosa St., Makati City. In claiming their prizes, winners should present a valid picture ID (e.g. employee ID, passport or driver's license) to the PLDT Marketing Services Department. PLDT shall give them a waiver form that they have to fill up and sign. The accomplished waiver form should be presented to PLDT upon claiming of the check representing the prize. The check can be claimed after five (5) working days upon submission of the requirements to the Marketing Services Department.
2. Winners in the instant cash portion of the promo are still qualified for the raffle draw. Prizes for the raffle draw have to be redeemed within 60 days from the winner's receipt of notification through registered mail. Unclaimed prizes after the said date shall be forfeited with prior approval of DTI.
3. Employees of PLDT, its advertising and promo agencies, its suppliers for this particular promotion and participating dealer outlets, including their relatives up to the second degree of consanguinity or affinity are disqualified from joining this promotion and claiming the prizes therefore.
4. PLDT shall shoulder the 20% tax for the winners who have won prizes exceeding P10,000.

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For more information, call 171, 1-800-888-9090 or visit the PLDT Business Office or Provincial Exchange nearest you. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1227, Series of 2000.

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House security officer kills two colleagues

THE HOUSE of Representatives security supervisor on Friday afternoon shot dead two officers of the Congress services bureau because he reportedly resented being made to work on New Year's Eve.

Renato C. de la Cruz, the security supervisor of the Legislative Services Bureau (LSB), is now in jail for shooting to death Roselo H. Ylagan, 60, a retired navy captain and LSB executive director, and LSB ammunition officer Gerald R. Rallos, 34, of Ilang-ilang Extension, Payatas B Village, Barangay Batasan Hills, Quezon City.

Investigator SPO1 Ramon Fernandez said De la Cruz shot Rallos in the left temple, thigh, back, and chest. Ylagan was shot in the neck, back of the head and left thigh, Fernandez added.

The policeman said the shooting happened at 5:55 p.m. at the LSB perimeter security group office inside the Batasan complex in Quezon City.

De la Cruz was about to go on duty to supervise the House security for the night and took his 9 mm service firearm from Rallos.

But after De la Cruz got the gun, he started complaining about having been made to go to work on New Year's Eve.

Rallos tried to calm him down but De la Cruz got more furious and began shouting at him.

Ylagan, who was already on his way home, heard De la Cruz's shouts. He went back to the office and, together with Ricardo Olaguera, tried to pacify De la Cruz, who was already brandishing the gun.

De la Cruz poked his gun at Rallos and then fired repeatedly, police said. De la Cruz then turned to Ylagan and pumped five bullets into his head.

De la Cruz was not able to escape as policemen from the Batasan Hills police station, which is just across the Batasan complex, arrived just in time to arrest him.

Senior Insp. Rudy Jaraza, head of the Central Police District's Criminal Investigation Unit-homicide division, said police would file double murder charges against De la Cruz once they get the results of his paraffin tests.

De la Cruz is now detained at the CIU jail at Camp Karingal, Quezon City. *Philip C. Tubeza*

Taytay bank robbed of P1M

ROBBERS struck in Rizal a week into the New Year, looting a thrift bank and fleeing with more than P1 million in their bags.

The shocked employees of Real Bank on Ortigas Avenue Extension in Taytay spent almost an hour inside the cash vault of the bank on Friday as four armed men pulled off the daring daylight heist.

The bank employees told police that three armed men entered the bank at 11:40 a.m. and ordered them first to drop to the floor. The robbers then ordered them to empty the cash registers and to open the vault.

The fourth suspect stood guard outside. His companions earlier disarmed the bank's two security guards and then beat them into unconsciousness.

Police said two of the men approached the main door and showed security guard Jaime Casido a passbook so they would let him in. While the guard was inspecting the passbook, one of the men pulled out a .38 cal. gun, whipped Casido on the nape and took his gun.

They did the same to the guard inside the bank, according to the initial report of SPO1 Rogelio Marundan of the Taytay police.

Police have not determined the exact amount taken by the robbers but they estimated that they stuffed about P1 million into their duffel bags.

Blanche S. Rivera

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Sunday, January 7, 2001
Feast of the Epiphany

1st Reading: **Is 60:1-6**

Arise, shine, for your light has come.

The Glory of Yahweh rises upon you.

Night still covers the earth and gloomy clouds veil the peoples, but Yahweh now rises and over you his glory appears.

Nations will come to your light and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

Lift up your eyes round about and see: they are all gathered and come to you, your sons from afar, your daughters tenderly carried.

This sight will make your face radiant, your heart throbbing and full; the riches of the sea will be turned to you, the wealth of the nations will come to you.

A flood of camels will cover you, caravans from Midian and Ephah.

Those from Sheba will come, bringing with them gold and incense, all singing in praise of Yahweh.

2nd Reading: Eph 3:2-3, 5-6

You may have heard of the graces God bestowed on me for your sake. By a revelation he gave me the knowledge of his mysterious design, as I have explained in a few words.

This mystery was not made known to past generations but only now, through revelations given to holy apostles and prophets. Now the non-Jewish people share the Inheritance; in Christ Jesus the non-Jews are incorporated and are to enjoy the Promise.

Gospel: Mt 2:1-12

When Jesus was born in Bethlehem, in Judea, during the days of King Herod, wise men from the east arrived in Jerusalem. They asked, "Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw the rising of his star in the east and have come to honor him." When Herod heard this he was greatly disturbed and with him all Jerusalem. He immediately called a meeting of all high-ranking priests and those who taught the people of God his Law, and asked them where the Messiah was to be born.

"In the town of Bethlehem in Judea," they told him, "for this is what the prophet wrote: *And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, you are by no means the least among the clans of Judah, for from you will come a leader, the one who is to shepherd my people Israel.*"

Then Herod secretly called the wise men and asked them the precise time the star appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem with the instruction, "Go and get precise information about the child. As soon as you have found him, report to me, so that I too may go and honor him."

After the meeting with the king, they set out. The star that they had seen in the East went ahead of them and stopped over the place where the child was. The wise men were overjoyed on seeing the star again. They went into the house and when they saw the child with Mary his mother, they knelt and worshiped him. They opened their bags and offered him their gifts of gold, incense and myrrh.

In a dream they were warned not to go back to Herod, so they returned to their home country by another way.

Commentary:

The Magi, whom we call "wise men" may have been astrologers or respected priests and seers of the Zoroastrian religion. But they were truly wise for two reasons: 1) They asked the right and most important question: "where is the newborn king of the Jews?" They looked for Jesus through whom alone we can find true salvation and in whom alone we can find fullness of life. 2) When they found the answer, they acted according to the light they received. And we, what questions do we ask? What are we looking for? Are we looking for Jesus? If we sincerely look for him we shall not be disappointed. He will reveal himself to us.

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SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

CRIMINAL LAW (AGGRAVATING CIRCUMSTANCES)—Co-principal by reason of conspiracy—To hold an accused liable as co-principal by reason of conspiracy, he must be shown to have performed an overt act in pursuance of or furtherance of the conspiracy, although the acts performed might have been distinct and separate. This overt act may consist of active participation in the actual commission of the crime itself or it may consist of moral assistance to his co-conspirators by being present at the time of the commission of the crime, or by exerting a moral ascendance over the other co-conspirators by moving them to execute or implement the criminal plan. Once conspiracy is established, all the conspirators are answerable as co-principals regardless of their degree of participation, for in the contemplation of the law, the act of one becomes the act of all. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Quisumbing, Second Division, People v. Ponce, G.R. No. 126254, September 29, 2000]

DIGEST BY R.B. VERA

ERIK ARAZAS

OVERPOWERING stench from uncollected garbage assaults motorists and pedestrians on C-5 Road and other parts.

Incinerate it, says Atienza

MANILA Mayor Atienza said he would ask Congress to amend the Clean Air Act to allow the city to burn its garbage temporarily or until authorities have figured a way out of the current garbage mess affecting the metropolis.

Atienza said on Friday that incineration is the fastest way to rid the city of its garbage. But he said his hands are tied because the Clean Air Act has banned the burning of garbage.

Caloocan City Mayor Rey Malonzo agreed, saying that the Clear Air Act was "partly responsible for the garbage mess" because of its strict prohibition of incinerators even if they were "environment-friendly."

Atienza said the city is studying the serious implementation of garbage segregation and recycling to reduce the volume of non-biodegradable solid wastes.

The mayor said he also hopes to begin a composting project where biodegradable wastes are converted to organic fertilizer.

City Hall will be strictly implementing its anti-dumping ordinance. People caught illegally dumping garbage on streets and sidewalks face a penalty of P200 and up to six months imprisonment.

Manila and the rest of the National Capital Region are experiencing a garbage crisis after the last sanitary landfill in San Mateo, Rizal was permanently closed down on Dec. 31.

Atienza recently earned the ire of fellow mayors in the metropolis when he announced that the city's garbage transfer station at Pier 18 would be limited only to Manila, Pasay and Quezon City.

Atienza, however, said his decision was backed by the entire Metro Manila Mayors Council.

Only three garbage trucks at a time would be allowed to use Radial Road 10 leading to the transfer station so as not to clog traffic on the busy highway, he added.

Jerome Aning

Jealous worker stabs co-worker 13 times

HELPER Michael G. Geriva of the Book Craft Publishing House in Quezon City was jealous that his boss favored his co-worker Christopher Pasagui, police said.

Yesterday before dawn, Geriva stabbed Pasagui 13 times, thrice on the head.

Geriva, 22, of Sta. Rita, Quezon, Nueva Ecija, had not gone to work for the past four days when he came back to the Book Craft office on Lyric Street in Barangay West Fairview, before dawn yesterday and killed Pasagui, the office caretaker, said investigator SPO1 Demosthenes B. Rebancos.

Geriva also took the .38 caliber revolver of security guard Alexander C. Turajas, which Pasagui was carrying at the time, Rebancos added.

Pasagui, Turajas and another employee slept in separate rooms in the office.

Turajas said he was awakened from his sleep at about 3:30 a.m. yesterday when Geriva opened the gate and was about to leave the office.

By then, Pasagui was already bleeding to death from the 13 stab wounds he got from the suspect. Ironically, Turajas said Pasaqui must have been the one who let Geriva in.

The guard said he did not stop Geriva because he saw he had the revolver tucked in his waist.

Turajas later brought Pasaqui to the FEU Medical Center but Dr. Gene Molina declared him dead on arrival at 4:15 a.m.

Rebancos said Geriva got jealous because his boss trusted Pasagui more and gave him more assignments.

Police are now looking for Geriva, who was not found in his uncle's house in Novaliches, Quezon City, his only known address in Metro Manila, Rebancos added.

Philip C. Tubeza

Bags left behind . . .

(From page A17)

forcer and told him there might be a bomb in his vehicle.

Western Police District bomb experts led by SPO4 Jojo Capacete found a white plastic bag in the back seat of Lalito Rapuot's gray Lancer cab.

The policemen as well as commuters and motorists who were told to get far from the cab, breathed with relief when an inspection of the bag's contents revealed only an empty fastfood meal box.

Rapuot said the two men, who looked like soldiers or Reserved Officers Training Corps cadets and were dressed in incomplete military uniforms, boarded his taxi at the corner of Rizal Avenue and C.M. Recto about 11:30 a.m. and told him to take them to Paco.

Rapuot said the cab was nearing the intersection of Recto and Legarda near Malaca□ang when his passengers suddenly jumped out of the vehicle. He said he stopped the car in the middle of the street and was stunned when he saw the bag in the back seat.

"I panicked because I thought it had a bomb inside, so I too jumped out of the taxi," he later told Capacete.

Investigators theorized the passengers were either pranksters or did not want to pay their fare.

A bomb scare also gripped the Basilica Minor of the Black Nazarene in Quiapo after three bags were found on the church premises on Friday, forcing the evacuation of hundreds of devotees.

Insp. Ferdinand Quirante, head of the police community precinct at Plaza Miranda, said the first discovery was made at about 1 p.m. Friday when a black bag was found inside the church restroom.

Church authorities summoned members of the WPD explosive and ordnance division. However, they only found clothes and ID cards in the name of Leticia Larce, 45, a teacher at the Ramon Avance□a High School.

Investigators thought the bag might have been snatched from Larce and then dumped in the comfort room after it was emptied of its contents.

An hour later a red bag was discovered by devotees near the altar. Policemen cleared the church with the help of the parish priest.

Bomb experts who later opened the bag found only pieces of old clothing and semi-nude photos of sexy star Ara Mina.

The third false alarm came about 10:30 p.m. while a religious charismatic concert was taking place in the church.

Police said a black bag found hanging on the railings of the church gate was thought to have a bomb and caused a panic among worshippers and motorists. When members of the bomb squad examined the bag, they found that it contained clothing articles, a bar of bath soap and a tube of toothpaste.

Chief supt. Avelino Razon Jr., WPD director, ordered the EOD head, Insp. Lorenzo Molato, as well as the Plaza Miranda precinct and its mother unit, Station 3, to be on constant alert as the Feast of the Black Nazarene approaches.

People power . . .

(From page A17)

school teacher Cathy de la Cruz, shouted at the dump truck drivers, "Why here? Can't you see this is a poor and lahar-swamped village? Do you want us to get sick here? We already had a major disaster here. You want to cause another?"

Engineer Virgilio Juliana, who introduced himself as a contractor of a company owned by one Rus Co Choi, a Korean from Quezon City, said they were planning to dump the trash in the five-hectare lot owned by Lito Miranda, brother-in-law of Yabut.

Juliana claimed that the garbage would be mixed with lahar to make fertilizer.

But Minalin Vice Mayor Nilo Pingul pointed out that much of the garbage was not organic but consisted of non-biodegradable materials like plastic.

Impounded

In Bulacan, four trucks hauling garbage from Navotas were intercepted in Barangay Sta. Rosa, Marilao.

Two other trucks hauling garbage from Pateros were stopped near the North Luzon Expressway tollgate and MacArthur Highway, also in Marilao. Reports said the trucks were about to unload garbage in Marilao's two-hectare municipal dumpsite.

The trucks were impounded and taken to the provincial engineer's office compound in Barangay Tabang, Guiguinto town.

The Navotas garbage contractor was identified through a receipt recovered from one of the drivers. A certain Boy Mangalos of San Miguel, Bulacan reportedly contracted the haulers, Loderunner Corp. based in Malabon, Metro Manila, to collect Pateros' garbage.

Engineer Wilfredo de Leon of the Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office (Penro) led the team that intercepted the trucks. He said they set up checkpoints in Bulacan after receiving reports on Thursday that some 50 trucks from Metro Manila would dump garbage in Marilao's two-hectare municipal dumpsite.

Pier picket

Semirara residents feared violence might erupt anytime after security guards of the Semirara Coal Corp. (SCC) and members of the Civilian Armed Forces Geographical Units (CAFGUs) barred people and reporters from entering the pier where the barges were docked.

Residents staged a picket near the pier as policemen from Caluya town were called in to "protect the protesters."

Protesters vowed to stone SCC workers if they insisted on dumping the garbage in the 28-hectare Panian Pit, an active coal mine operated by SCC.

The first barge arrived about 5 p.m. Friday and the second at 1 a.m. yesterday.

The 40-meter barge Aquarius was said to be carrying 1,100 metric tons of garbage. It was towed by MV St. Michael. The other barge is reported to be 35 meters long.

Coast Guard members Emmanuel Dabucon and Jesusino Capilastique served the TRO issued by Executive Judge Nery Duremdes of the Antique RTC to the unidentified captains of the vessels that towed the barges to Semirara.

Unidentified personnel of the Metro Manila Development Authority who accompanied the barges were also served the TRO.

Waiting for Jan. 18

One of the barges reportedly left the pier after the TRO was served. But residents believed it dropped anchor off Semirara Island to wait for the expiration of the TRO on Jan. 18.

The MMDA wants to dump Metro Manila trash on the island after the closure of the San Mateo Sanitary Landfill in Rizal on Dec. 31.

It zeroed in on Semirara after Celdex/DMCI Consortium, a subsidiary of the SCC, won the bid for the landfill facility.

The landfill will operate for two years until MMDA finds a permanent dumping site for its garbage.

But the MMDA's proposal met strong opposition from residents and officials of Antique as well as of Iloilo, Aklan and Capiz.

The United Antique□os, the group opposing the landfill, filed a petition for injunction. On Jan. 4, Judge Duremdes issued a 20-day retraining order extending the 72-hour TRO he issued on Dec. 29.

P.A. Zapanta, 80

PETE Zapanta, war veteran and writer, passed away on Friday at age 80.

His articles, under the byline P. A. Zapanta, were regular features in leading national publications, like the old Sunday Times Magazine, in the 1970s.

Zapanta also wrote several notable short stories which appeared in the Philippine Free Press, Asia Philippines Leader and Graphic magazine.

His wife Nida said the writer escaped from the Veterans Memorial Hospital where he was confined for a lung ailment last month.

His body lies at his residence at the corner of Agham Road and Quezon Avenue, Quezon City.

Runaway slain by driver

MARK A. Baltazar ran away from home and was going to a friend's house before dawn Friday after his father scolded him for coming home late in Quezon City.

But the 18-year-old did not make it to his friend's place. A jeepney driver stabbed him along the way and he died while his friend was taking him to the hospital.

Baltazar, of Ramirez Compound, Pasacola, Barangay Nagkaisang Nayon, Novaliches, came home about midnight on Thursday. His father Romeo berated him and lectured him about how unsafe the streets are at night, police said.

But the young man apparently was hurt and decided to run away from home and go to his friend's house.

Baltazar again ventured to the unsafe streets. He took a jeep bound for the Novaliches town proper.

But when he knocked at his friend's house on Gen. Luis Street, also in Nagkaisang Nayon, his friend Eduardo de Jesus was surprised to see Baltazar bleeding from a stab wound in the chest.

De Jesus brought him to the Bernardino Hospital, but Dr. Rhiza Vengco declared him dead on arrival at 1:06 a.m. Friday.

As Baltazar gasped for breath, he was able to tell De Jesus that a jeepney driver wearing a white shirt stabbed him. But Central Police District members have not identified the driver. *Philip C. Tubeza*

Will GMA 7 bring back the good old 'Charlie's Angels'?

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Leah Salterio

"CHARLIE'S Angels" on primetime TV again?

As one of the "Charlie's Angels" fanatics in the late '70s, we'd be thrilled to see the series being aired on free TV again.

The late '70s saw an army of viewers going gaga over the sexy trio of **Jacqueline Smith**, **Farrah Fawcett** (who was later replaced by **Cheryl Ladd**) and **Kate Jackson** in the TV series "Charlie's Angels."

Thanks to the new "Charlie's Angels" movie which starred **Drew Barrymore**, **Cameron Diaz** and **Lucy Liu**, interest in the "Charlie's Angels" has been rekindled. Why, the "Charlie's Angels" theme is even used as the ringing tone of a number of mobile phones.

Lately, AXN has been airing old episodes of "Charlie's Angels" on cable TV. Even video tapes of old "Charlie's Angels" episodes are sold in video stores, giving recent Hollywood blockbusters mean competition.

The sexy TV trio inspired thousands of girls, my sister, my childhood friend **Angie** and myself included. I remember the days when we would role-play as detectives a la **Kelly Garrett**, **Chris Monroe** and **Sabrina Duncan**, the Angels themselves. We preferred the post-Farrah Fawcett series, so my friend liked to pretend she was Cheryl Ladd.

"Charlie's Angels" did not only attract hordes of male and female viewers, it also started a fashion trend, especially the big curls and sporty women's clothes.

The series was then one of the top-raters on GMA-7, which was home to many other popular canned shows.

I remember being often glued to my TV set watching other widely followed GMA programs like "Starsky and Hutch," "Chips," "Little House on the Prairie," "Love Boat," "Three's Company" and even the war drama "Combat," the favorite of my dad and my brother.

And on Sunday nights, I didn't miss an episode of "Charlie's Angels," even the ones which were replayed.

We wonder if GMA-7 is considering bringing back the old "Charlie's Angels," just like it did "Voltes V" which captured a new generation of viewers. "Charlie's Angels" will certainly win a big bunch of new followers this time around.

No reason to sulk

MYLENE Dizon's launching movie, "Gatas sa Dibdib ng Kaaway" did not make it to the Magic Six in the recent Metro Manila Film Festival. But that was no reason for Mylene to sulk during the holidays. Her movie became one of the first Philippine movies to be shown in the new year.

In a way, it's a blessing in disguise for Mylene because she didn't have to compete with acting veterans and award-winners for viewers' attention.

Those who saw "Gatas" during the special preview last month at the ABS-CBN preview room had only praise for Mylene, who obviously worked very hard.

"I'm very proud of what I did in this movie," Mylene says.

One movie critic commented that Mylene would figure prominently in acting contests next year, for her understated but compelling performance as a wet nurse during the Japanese occupation.

"It would be exciting to win an award," she says. "It's the dream of every actress. But when I made this movie, I wasn't thinking of an award. I just wanted to give my best.

"But if I would be blessed with an award for this movie, I would be very happy because I gave all I've got."

"Gatas" is directed by **Gil Portes**, who also helmed **Dolphy**'s filmfest starrer, "Markova: Comfort Gay."

Search for new band members

ARTISTATION, the management outfit that has some of today's leading artists and show bands, including beauty queen **Miriam Quiambao** and Side A Band, is conducting a search for male and female instrumentalists and vocalists to join its roster.

If you've got what it takes to entertain and you're at home with '70s tunes, you can audition to be a member of the second generation of Fat Session. Those interested may send their resumés to Artistation Inc. at 7/F Athenaeum Building, 160 L.P Leviste St. (formerly Alfaro), Salcedo Village, Makati City.

The big man behind Artistation is **Wyngard Tracy**, who has steered Side A band into being one of the most popular music acts in the entertainment scene.

Side A still performs Monday and Wednesday nights at Suburbia, which the group also partly owns with Wyngard and TV director **Bert de Leon**.

BODY AND SOUL. Mylene Dizon says she gave her all to make her "Gatas" performance a good one.

'MEET THE PARENTS'

Meeting De Niro as the epitome of deadpan

BY EMMIE G. VELARDE

REVIEW

AM I a big movie fan?

Yes.

Did I defy this week's climate of bomb scares to indulge my one vice?

Yes.

What did I watch?

"Meet the Parents."

Could I have put off watching till next week, since it would surely go on extended run, anyway?

No, I had waited for this one since October.

Was it worth the risk, and all that frisking by mall guards?

Robert de Niro and Ben Stiller in one movie? What kind of dumb question is that?

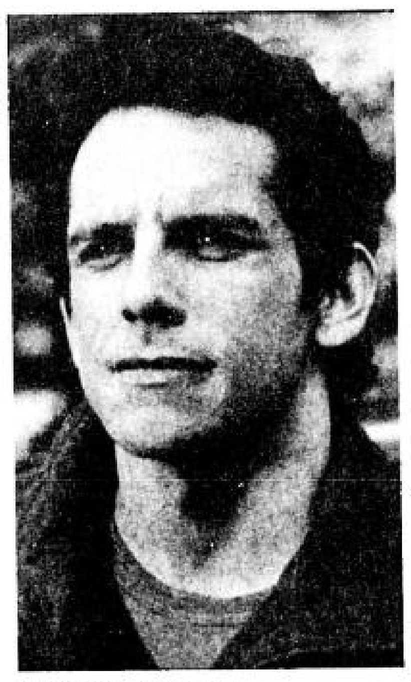
Did I enjoy myself then?

Even if, as the father of the fiancée in the movie insists, I should answer questions with a simple "yes" or "no," I will still have to say, "Thoroughly."

De Niro plays Jack Byrnes, ex-CIA psychological profiler, a "human lie detector," who torments a prospective son-in-law during a wild weekend visit. "Like an anxiety dream," is how director Jay Roach (of the "Austin Powers" movies) sees any first encounter with future in-laws. Imagine how this turns out when the dad looks exactly like the psycho in "Cape Fear."

Stiller as the boyfriend not only has to rise above the humiliation guaranteed by his name, Gaylord Focker; he must win the man over. There are several profoundly intimidating obstacles to this undertaking. Byrnes is as protective of his ward as that other psycho in "Taxi Driver," as cunning as the young Vito Corleone in "Godfather II," and as irrational as the monster in "Mary Shelley's Frankenstein."

DE NIRO. Hilarious



STILLER. Terrified

To achieve his goal, Focker lies big-time, and wears a veneer to impress. Everybody does this at least once in their lives, right? What drives the hapless chap up the wall is that, for good measure, he puts a lid on his most lethal charms—sarcasm and jokes—and tries to quit smoking and sex for 72 hours. Picture a wreck.

Okay, first picture a pushover. It is made clear within minutes of their meeting that Focker faces an uphill climb. He is treated much worse than the family pet. He is talked down to and constantly sized up.

It doesn't help that, because the airline misplaced his suitcase, he wears other people's clothes for more than half the time, including the morning he gets to meet his girlfriend's handsome, charming, talented and obscenely wealthy ex.

Hundred-percent gagman Roach's impeccable timing and sense of the absurd keep jaws locked in the laugh mode. There wasn't a quiet seat in the moviehouse.

How does he know a man like Jack Byrnes so well? "My father was in the defense industry and was in stuff that I still don't know about. It can be stressful when you introduce your friends to your parents and wonder if they have to go through a background check."

But it was De Niro that contributed the infamous polygraph scene. At the time of filming, the actor had just done polygraph research for another spy movie, and was passionately discussing it with Stiller one day.

To say Stiller was anxious wouldn't be an exaggeration at all. He was reportedly so terrified of De Niro for the entire shoot, Roach says (delighted of course). "The intimidation completely showed on camera."

Small wonder that, in a TV interview, all that Stiller could come up with, when asked about his legendary co-actor, was, "He very nice. He doesn't really speak a lot unless he has something to say."

When Miriam Defensor-Santiago exhorted Chief Justice Hilario Davide to throw out three people from the impeachment court on Thursday, I wondered how the honorable presiding judge felt. Possibly like Roach, who says that before De Niro, he often felt like he was in the hot seat, too, like Stiller: "I'd listen to the takes every once in a while and hear my own voice saying, 'Bob, could we try that again, just a little straighter, maybe?' And I'd think, 'Oh, shut up, you're talking to Robert de Niro.'"

All right, strike that.

Of "comedy-related scripts, or whatever you want to call them," the notoriously serious De Niro says: "As long as it's got a real base to it, I enjoy it." He's hilarious, too, even as he insists on being the epitome of deadpan here—reciting a pathetic little poem for his mom, announcing the precious cat's new tricks, planning a water sport like an undercover procedure.

The role would certainly have been attacked differently by Jim Carrey, who was supposed to do this movie years ago, with Steven Spielberg directing.

Blythe Danner is the consummate Mrs. Byrnes—gracious, quick to smoothen out awkward moments, mushy but with a spine of steel when necessary. Teri Polo alternately shimmers and sizzles as the girlfriend and darling daughter that Dad finds difficult to let go, the better to understand how Focker would willingly put himself through agony, if she's the prize.

In a phrase, that should be like "Keeping the Faith," because "There's Something About Teri." All right, strike this, too.

Yes, this daughter is such a treasure that, in the end, seeing his autocratic ways are about to make her very, very unhappy, Byrnes appears ready to lighten up, like the lovestruck detective in "Mad Dog and Glory" and the humorless, homophobic cop in "Flawless."

Is this one of the best comedies I've seen?

Yes.

About as good as . . .?

"So I Married an Axe Murderer."

Would I mind seeing it again?

No.

Who really should see this movie?

Stiller devotees.

Who definitely should see this movie?

De Niro disciples.

Who absolutely should see this movie?

Cat lovers.

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JANUARY 7 - 13
Primetime Schedule

Sun Jan. 7 Joyce Jimenez
Sunday's Bida sa Takilya:
SCORPIO NIGHTS 2

Mon Jan. 8 Raymart Santiago
Umaatikabong Aksyon sa Lunes:
PACIFICO GUEVARRA, DILINGER NG DOSE PARES

Tue Jan. 9 Angelu de Leon
Tuesday's Tambay Time:
LAGING NAROON KA

Wed Jan. 10 Sharon Cuneta
Madamdaming Miyerkules:
NANG INIWAN MO AKO

Thu Jan. 11 Fernando Poe Jr.
Director's Masterpiece:
ESENG NG TONDO

Fri Jan. 12 Ynez Veneracion
Premiere Express sa Biyernes:
AKIN ANG LABANG ITO

Sat Jan. 13 Hilda Koronel
KSP (Knockout Saturday Premiere):
KUNG MAHAWI MAN ANG ULAP

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Irish hitmaker The Corrs performs at Big Dome

A LONG way from their Irish town, The Corrs made history with a first album that quickly turned multi-platinum.

THE IRISH group The Corrs is performing at the Araneta Coliseum on Feb. 16 in what promises to be a big Valentine treat.

The group behind such hits as "Runaway," "I Never Loved You Anyway," "Don't Say You Love Me" and "Only When I Sleep" is composed of three sisters and one brother—Andrea on vocals, Caroline on drums, Sharon on violin and Jim on guitars and keyboards.

The top of the charts is certainly a long way from Dundalk, the Irish border town where the Corr brother and sisters first got together to play in the upstairs bedroom of their house.

The accolade "the hardest-working band in the world" is also a long way from the group's disastrous audition for the role of the band in the Irish cult Alan Parker movie "The Commitments," based on Roddy Doyle's book.

The siblings didn't get the parts they wanted, but they did get other parts. John Hughes, the film's musical adviser, saw something special in The Corrs. He was so impressed he became the group's manager and remains "the fifth Corr" to this day.

The Corrs turned up unannounced at New York's Hit Factory, where record producer David Foster was working on Michael Jackson's "HIStory" album. Foster signed them up on the spot and took charge of producing their first album, "Forgiven Not Forgotten."

The rest is history. The album went multi-platinum in six countries and gold in six more.

Tickets to The Corrs concert at The Big Dome are available at all SM TicketNet outlets. For more information, call 911-5555 and 893-0026.

The concert is presented by Nokia.

SM CINEMA GUIDE

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1	DOLBY SURROUND	SPIRIT WARRIORS
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4	DOLBY SURROUND	GATAS
5	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	EMPERORS NEW GROOVE
6	DOLBY SURROUND	TANGING YAMAN
7	DOLBY SURROUND	DEATH ROW
8	DOLBY SURROUND	PING LACSON STORY

SM CENTERPOINT 7149522 • 7161416

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2	DOLBY SURROUND	SPIRIT WARRIORS
3	DTS	MEET THE PARENTS
4	DOLBY SURROUND	DEATH ROW
5	DOLBY DIGITAL	THE 6TH DAY
6	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	PING LACSON STORY
7	DOLBY SURROUND	EMPERORS NEW GROOVE
8	DOLBY SURROUND	THE 6TH DAY
9	DOLBY SURROUND	GATAS
10	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	MARKOVA: COMFORT GAY

SM CITY FAIRVIEW 9350749

1	DOLBY SURROUND	SPIRIT WARRIORS
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3	DOLBY SURROUND	THE 6TH DAY
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5	DOLBY SURROUND	TANGING YAMAN
6	DOLBY SURROUND	EMPERORS NEW GROOVE
7	DOLBY DIGITAL	THE 6TH DAY
8	DOLBY SURROUND	SPIRIT WARRIORS
9	DOLBY SURROUND	DEATH ROW
10	DOLBY SURROUND	PING LACSON STORY
11	DOLBY SURROUND	TANGING YAMAN
12	DOLBY SURROUND	GATAS

SM CITY MANILA 5239240

1	DOLBY DIGITAL	MEET THE PARENTS
2	DOLBY DIGITAL	EMPERORS NEW GROOVE
3	DOLBY SURROUND	BLAIRWITCH
4	DOLBY SURROUND	THE 6TH DAY
5	DOLBY DIGITAL	CHARLIE'S ANGELS
6	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	THE 6TH DAY
7	DOLBY SURROUND	DEATH ROW
8	DOLBY SURROUND	GATAS
9	DOLBY SURROUND	TANGING YAMAN
10	DOLBY SURROUND	PING LACSON STORY
11	DOLBY SURROUND	LOST SOUL
12	DOLBY SURROUND	SPIRIT WARRIORS

GUADALUPE COMM'L CTR 8820950

1	ULTRA SURROUND	GATAS
2	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	THE 6TH DAY
3	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	TANGING YAMAN

SM MEGAMALL 6331901 • 6329401

1	DOLBY DIGITAL	TANGING YAMAN
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3	DOLBY DIGITAL	THE 6TH DAY
4	DTS	MEET THE PARENTS
5	DOLBY SURROUND	EMPERORS NEW GROOVE
6	DOLBY SURROUND	DEATH ROW
7	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	MARKOVA: COMFORT GAY
8	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	TANGING YAMAN
9	DOLBY SURROUND	GATAS
10	DOLBY SURROUND	SUGATANG PUSO
11	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	SPIRIT WARRIORS
12	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	PING LACSON STORY

SM CITY NORTH EDSA 9295452

1	DOLBY SURROUND	SPIRIT WARRIORS
2	DOLBY SURROUND	GATAS
3	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	TANGING YAMAN
4	DOLBY SURROUND	GATAS
5	DOLBY SURROUND	MEET THE PARENTS
6	DOLBY SURROUND	EMPERORS NEW GROOVE
7	DTS	THE 6TH DAY
8	DOLBY DIGITAL	THE 6TH DAY
9	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	TANGING YAMAN
10	DOLBY SURROUND	SUGATANG PUSO
11	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	DEATH ROW
12	DOLBY SURROUND	PING LACSON STORY

SM SOUTHMALL 8066888 • 8066782

1	ULTRA SURROUND	PING LACSON STORY
2	ULTRA SURROUND	TANGING YAMAN
3	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	EMPERORS NEW GROOVE
4	ULTRA SURROUND	MEET THE PARENTS
5	ULTRA SURROUND	SUGATANG PUSO
6	ULTRA SURROUND	MARKOVA: COMFORT GAY
7	ULTRA SURROUND	GATAS
8	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	THE 6TH DAY
9	ULTRA SURROUND	DEATH ROW
10	ULTRA SURROUND	SPIRIT WARRIORS

TUTUBAN CENTER 2514302

1	ULTRA SURROUND	THE 6TH DAY
2	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	TANGING YAMAN
3	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	PING LACSON STORY
4	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	SPIRIT WARRIORS

SM CEBU 2313876

1	DOLBY SURROUND	THE 6TH DAY
2	ULTRA SURROUND	PING LACSON STORY
3	ULTRA SURROUND	GATAS
4	ULTRA SURROUND	DEATH ROW
5	ULTRA SURROUND	SPIRIT WARRIORS
6	ULTRA SURROUND	TANGING YAMAN
7	DOLBY SURROUND	UNBREAKABLE

SM ILOILO 3209422

1	ULTRA SURROUND	JUAN & TED
2	ULTRA SURROUND	SPIRIT WARRIORS
3	ULTRA SURROUND	MARKOVA: COMFORT GAY
4	ULTRA SURROUND	CHARLIE'S ANGEL
5	ULTRA SURROUND	TANGING YAMAN
6	ULTRA SURROUND	THE 6TH DAY
7	ULTRA SURROUND	NAGHUHUMIYAW
8	ULTRA SURROUND	CROCODILE

SM PAMPANGA 7128015

1	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	THE 6TH DAY
2	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	CROCODILE
3	DOLBY SURROUND	SPIRIT WARRIORS
4	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	GATAS
5	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	SUGO NG TONDO
6	DOLBY SURROUND	TANGING YAMAN

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2	EMPERORS NEW GROOVE	
3	GATAS	
4	TANGING YAMAN	

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2	THE 6TH DAY	In DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
3	THE 6TH DAY THX	In DSD/SDDS/DTS DIGITAL SOUND
4	DEATH ROW Art Film	In DTS DIGITAL SOUND
5	TANGING YAMAN	In DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
6	MEET THE PARENTS	In DTS/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND
7	SPIRIT WARRIORS	In DTS DIGITAL SOUND

GREENBELT

1	GATAS	In D
2	THE 6TH DAY	In SONY DYNAMIC DIGITAL SOUND
3	MEET THE PARENTS	In DOLBY STEREO DIGITAL SOUND
4	SOON TO OPEN Onstage	

ALABANG TOWN CENTER

1	THE 6TH DAY THX	In DSD/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND
2	THE 6TH DAY	In DSD DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
3	MEET THE PARENTS	In DTS DIGITAL SOUND
4	EMPERORS NEW GROOVE	In DTS DIGITAL SOUND
5	TANGING YAMAN	In DTS DIGITAL SOUND

MMTA

METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION

MOVIE GUIDE

NOW SHOWING

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72

1 (DDS)	THE 6TH DAY
2 (SDDS)	THE 6TH DAY
3 (DTS)	MEET THE PARENTS
4 GOLD (DTS)	MEET THE PARENTS
5 GOLD (DOLBY)	THE 6TH DAY
6 GOLD (SDDS)	DEATH ROW
7 GOLD (DOLBY)	EMPERORS GROOVE
8 [illegible]	TANGING YAMAN
9 [illegible]	SPIRIT WARRIORS
10 [illegible]	GATAS

Pearl Plaza Cinemas
(Parañaque) tel. 853.4486

1	GATAS
2	SPIRIT WARRIORS
3 (DTS)	TANGING YAMAN
4	DEATH ROW
5	RESERVE
6 (DTS)	THE 6TH DAY

Golden Pearl THX

Masagana CINEMAX 1-2 & 3
(Kalaw) tel 536.4315

1 (DOLBY)	THE 6TH DAY
2 (DTS)	DEATH ROW
3	MEET THE PARENTS

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 831.6603

1	GATAS
2	THE 6TH DAY
3	TANGING YAMAN

Starmall Movies
(Shaw Blvd.) tel 724.4986

1	GATAS
2	PING LACSON STORY
3	TANGING YAMAN
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	THE 6TH DAY
5	DEATH ROW

Metropolis
(Alabang) tel 543.4001

1	PING LACSON STORY
2	GATAS
3	TANGING YAMAN
4	DEATH ROW
5	EMPERORS NEW GROOVE
6	THE 6TH DAY
7	SPIRIT WARRIORS
8	MEET THE PARENTS

Uniwide Metromall
(Las Piñas) tel. 873.5606 loc. 1074

1	NAKALIMOT NA PAG-IBIG
2	BIYAK NA GUBAT
3	RESERVE
4	DROGA
5	RESERVE
6	RESERVE

Uniwide Coastal Mall
(Parañaque) tel 879.0001 loc. 2152

1	RESERVE
2	AKO ANG LALAGOT
3	RATRATAN
4	TATLONG PUSO

Center Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1	SPIRIT WARRIORS
2	TANGING YAMAN

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL, INC.
tel 930.9515

1	TANGING YAMAN
2	GATAS
3	THE 6TH DAY

Spring
(Libertad, Pasay City) tel 831.7864

1	GATAS
A	THE 6TH DAY

JC Cinema
(Parañaque) tel 825.8626

1	GATAS
3	TANGING YAMAN

GOTESCO CINEMA

City
(Manila) tel 734.8568

1 (DOLBY)	GATAS
2	PING LACSON STORY
3	DEATH ROW
4	SPIRIT WARRIORS
5	TANGING YAMAN
6	EMPERORS NEW GROOVE
7 (DTS)	MEET THE PARENTS
8 (SDDS)	THE 6TH DAY
9 (DOLBY)	THE 6TH DAY

Caloocan
tel 362.3508

2	THE 6TH DAY
3	PING LACSON STORY
4	GATAS
5	
6	

Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 364.3781

1	GATAS
2	SPIRIT WARRIORS
3	TANGING YAMAN
4 (SDDS)	THE 6TH DAY
5	EMPERORS NEW GROOVE
6 (DOLBY)	THE 6TH DAY
7 (DTS)	MEET THE PARENTS
8	DEATH ROW
9	PING LACSON STORY

Commonwealth
tel 951.0083

1 (DTS)	MEET THE PARENTS
2	GATAS
3	TANGING YAMAN
4	SPIRIT WARRIORS
5 (SDDS)	THE 6TH DAY
6	PING LACSON STORY
7 (DOLBY)	THE 6TH DAY
8	EMPERORS NEW GROOVE

Ortigas
tel 656.6795

1	PING LACSON STORY
2	MEET THE PARENTS
3 (DTS)	GATAS
4	SPIRIT WARRIORS
5 (SDDS)	THE 6TH DAY
6 (DOLBY)	TANGING YAMAN
7 (DOLBY)	EMPERORS NEW GROOVE

Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470

1	GATAS

Sampaguita
(Cubao) tel 911.7888

1	GATAS

Dilson
(Manila) tel 734.7724

Dilson	PRIVATE LESSON
Lords	PING LACSON STORY
Jennet	BUBOT

Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1	GATAS
2	THE 6TH DAY
3	TANGING YAMAN
4	SPIRIT WARRIORS

Prima
(Pasig) tel 641.1215

1	
3	GATAS

Super Cinerama
(Manila) tel 733.4226 or 733.4238

1	THE 6TH DAY
2	SPIRIT WARRIORS
3	MEET THE PARENTS
4	GATAS
5	TANGING YAMAN

Divisoria Mall
(Manila) tel 244.4560 or 244.4619

1	GATAS
2	THE 6TH DAY
3	TANGING YAMAN
4	SPIRIT WARRIORS
5	PING LACSON STORY
6	DEATH ROW

Baclaran LRT Cinema
tel 512.0115 or 512.0116

1	GATAS
2	PING LACSON STORY
3	THE 6TH DAY

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna)
tel (049) 534.2185 / 534.2198

1	TANGING YAMAN
2	GATAS
3 (DTS)	THE 6TH DAY

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1	GATAS
2 (DTS)	TANGING YAMAN
3 (DOLBY)	THE 6TH DAY
4	MEET THE PARENTS

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS)	THE 6TH DAY
2	GATAS
3	DEATH ROW
4 (DTS)	SPIRIT WARRIORS

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY)	THE 6TH DAY
2	GATAS
3 (DTS)	MEET THE PARENTS
4	SPIRIT WARRIORS
5	EMPERORS NEW GROOVE

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1	THE 6TH DAY
2	MEET THE PARENTS
3	GATAS

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 536.5101

1	THE 6TH DAY
2	EMPERORS NEW GROOVE
3	GATAS

Olivarez Tagaytay
tel (046) 413.0311

1	SPIRIT WARRIORS
2	TANGING YAMAN
3	NAGHUHUMIYAW

Morales Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.9736

1	MEET THE PARENTS
2	THE 6TH DAY
3	SPIRIT WARRIORS

Sunshine
(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376

1	THE 6TH DAY
2	SPIRIT WARRIORS
3	TANGING YAMAN
4	GATAS

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 243.2783

1	THE 6TH DAY
2	GATAS

Fourstep
(Cavite) tel (046) 416.2385

1	TANGING YAMAN

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1	TANGING YAMAN
2	GATAS
3	THE 6TH DAY

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1	TANGING YAMAN
2	DEATH ROW
3	THE 6TH DAY
4	THE 6TH DAY

Berma
tel 879.2168

1	RESERVE
2	RESERVE

CitiMall
(Parañaque) tel 820.7269

1	GATAS
2	THE 6TH DAY
3	EMPERORS NEW GROOVE
4	TANGING YAMAN

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY SR)	MARKOVA: COMFORT GAY
2	TANGING YAMAN
3	SUGATANG PUSO
4 (DTS SR)	THE 6TH DAY

*Movies are subject to change without prior notice

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BEAUTY PAGEANT 2001

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a special presentation

Bigger things in store for Nth Degree this month

BIGGER things are in store for Nth Degree this January. Dubbed as the "total entertainment venue," the party place has an exciting line up to suit the tastes of avid party goers.

On Mondays, Slide Band burns up the place with their rendition of new wave classic hits.

On Tuesdays, Viktoria and her band perform dance, pop and soul hits.

Wednesdays are ladies night with popular showband Mulatto going retro. Ladies get free entrance.

Thursdays are sexy nights with The Divas and on Fridays, the place goes R&B with K24/7 featuring Shar and Swerve.

Saturdays are dance party nights from 7 to 9 p.m., with their buy two-take one on all local beers. The billiard tables located on the second floor, features a special hourly rate of P120.

On Jan. 17, Nth Degree holds a special show featuring Asia's Songbird Regine Velasquez.

The café bar will also open Jan. 12 for lunch and dinner.

Nth degree is at 1547 Adriatico Street, Malate, Metro Manila.

ROBINSONS MOVIE WORLD

STATE-OF-THE-ART CINEMAS

e-mail:hto@netasia-mla.net
http://www.robinsonsmovieworld.com

NOW SHOWING

Movies are subject to change without prior notice

ERMITA 536-7809-14

1. THE 6TH DAY
2. TANGING YAMAN
3. SPIRIT WARRIORS
4. THE 6TH DAY
5. GATAS
6. EMPERORS NEW GROOVE
7. MEET THE PARENTS

GALLERIA

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Robinsons Movieworld aims to bring a new dimension to your viewing experience – 10 brand new cinemas equipped with THX, DTS, SDDS, DOLBY DIGITAL soundsystem.

IMUS (046)878-3836

1. THE 6TH DAY
2. GATAS
3. TANGING YAMAN
4. MEET THE PARENTS
5. SPIRIT WARRIORS
6. EMPERORS NEW GROOVE

BACOLOD (034)441-0453

1. THE 6TH DAY
2. TANGING YAMAN
3. CHARLIE'S ANGELS
4. SUGATANG PUSO
5. PING LACSON STORY
6. SPIRIT WARRIORS

DOLBY dts SDDS

Dodot, Mikee today on 'S-Files'

GMA-7's show biz-oriented talk show, "S-Files," takes viewers to the posh residence of Dodot Jaworski and Mikee Cojuangco. The feature will be aired today on "The Insiders" segment of the program.

For the first time, Dodot and Mikee will deny talks that they are now living separately and even share with "S-Files" viewers how they spent the holidays with their son, Robbie, who's turning one year old this month.

The couple also talks about their married life of two years, their relationship with their parents, and their personal and professional plans.

Mikee shares her typical day at home taking care of her son and Dodot talks about his work as chief of staff in the senate office of his dad, Sen. Robert Jaworski.

Also find out if Dodot is planning to run for public office or if Mikee will resume her show biz career this year.

"S-Files" is hosted by Paolo Bediones and Lyn Ching, with Rey Pumaloy and VP Hernandez. The show airs Sundays, 4 to 5:30 p.m. on GMA-7.

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101

ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	TANGING YAMAN
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	GATAS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	MEET THE PARENTS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	THE 6TH DAY
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	EMPERORS NEW GROOVE
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	SPIRIT WARRIORS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7 (DOLBY)	THE 6TH DAY
FARMERS PLAZA-1 (DOLBY)	THE 6TH DAY
FARMERS PLAZA-2 (DOLBY)	GATAS
FIESTA CARNIVAL	PING LACSON STORY
NEW FRONTIER	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	THE 6TH DAY
MIRAMAR	ANG GUSTO KO SA LALAKE / HOT SPOT
ODEON	THE 6TH DAY
ODEON-2	PING LACSON STORY
ROBEN	GATAS
TANDEM-1	SPIRIT WARRIORS
TANDEM-2	NAGHUHUMIYAW
TIMES	HOLLOW MAN / GINGER SNAPS
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	MARKOVA: COMFORT GAY
ACT-2	IKAW LAMANG
ACT-3	CLASS AGAIN
ACT-4	KAAGAW
CORONET-2	GATAS
QUEZON-1	THE 6TH DAY
REMAR	THE 6TH DAY
REMAR-2	GATAS
CUBAO	
OCEAN SUPERAMA	MARKOVA: COMFORT GAY
OCEAN CINEMA-A	LARO SA BAGA
OCEAN CINEMA-B	GUEVARRA
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	EMPERORS NEW GROOVE
CINEMA-2	THE 6TH DAY
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-54091 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	SPIRIT WARRIORS
CINEMA-2	GATAS
CINEMA-3	TANGING YAMAN
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	THE 6TH DAY
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	DEATH ROW
CINEMA-6	PING LACSON STORY
CINEMA-7	MARKOVA: COMFORT GAY
CINEMA-8	SPIRIT WARRIORS
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	THE 6TH DAY
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	THE 6TH DAY
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	MEET THE PARENTS
CINEMA-12	EMPERORS NEW GROOVE
CINEMA-14	GATAS
CINEMA-15	TANGING YAMAN
LORES	
CINEMA-2	THE 6TH DAY
CINEMA-3	TANGING YAMAN
POWER PLANT CINEMA	
CINEMA-1	TANGING YAMAN
CINEMA-2	MEET THE PARENTS
CINEMA-3	MEET THE PARENTS
CINEMA-4	THE 6TH DAY
CINEMA-5	EMPERORS NEW GROOVE
CINEMA-6	EMPERORS NEW GROOVE

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THE 6TH DAYS
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3:00 PM - The 6th Day
5:30 pm - The 6th Day
8:00 PM - The 6th Day
10:30 PM - The 6th Day

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ENTERTAINMENT

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

Getting discovered for the movies

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

HOW do stars get discovered in Hollywood? In the old days, **Lana Turner** was spotted while cutting classes and hanging out in a soda fountain on Sunset Boulevard.

In **Audrey Hepburn**'s case, she started out as a chorus girl and model who did bit parts in films until she impressed French novelist Colette, who tapped her to play the title role in "Gigi" on Broadway.

Stewart Granger toiled as a film extra before producers noticed that he had leading-man good looks and plucked him out of the madding movie crowd.

Jean Harlow's ticket to eventual stardom was the small part she played in a **Laurel** and **Hardy** comedy short (as a blonde who loses her skirt in a taxi door).

Rock Hudson worked as a postman, aircraft mechanic and truck driver before an agent spotted his star potential, and signed him up. Before he could finally dazzle viewers, however, the diamond in the rough first had to learn how to speak without an accent, got his teeth capped—and entered into an arranged marriage!

Ann-Margret was singing with a band in her teens when **George Burns** put her in his Las Vegas act. A movie producer caught the show and snapped her up for Hollywood, casting her as **Bette Davis**' innocent daughter in "Pocketful of Miracles" in 1961.

Theda Bara, the screen seductress, was shy **Theodosia Goodman** before starmakers, make-up artists and publicists transformed her into a torrid star. They completely changed her appearance by smudging her eyes with thick eyeshadow to give her a hypnotic look, and put her in revealing costumes that clad her breasts in coiled-snake bra cups. To make her even more exotic, publicists claimed she was the love child of a French artist and his Arab mistress!

Spotted by the young director **Roger Vadim** on the cover of Elle magazine, **Brigitte Bardot** married him in 1952.

In his first film, "And God Created Woman," she launched a kittenish look that redefined sex appeal and inspired scores of imitators.

Leslie Caron was the daughter of a dancer and studied ballet when she was only 10 years old. By the time she was 16, she was performing with **Roland Petit**'s Ballet des Champs-Elysees, where she was spotted by **Gene Kelly**. He cast her as his dancing partner in MGM's Oscar-winning musical, "An American in Paris" (1951), and Caron became an overnight star.

The handsome scion of a wealthy family, **William Holden** was spotted in a college production in Pasadena and contracted to Paramount, where he starred in a series of hit films like "Golden Boy," "Sunset Boulevard" and "Stalag 17."

Ellen Burstyn spent many years in relative anonymity as a veteran of the chorus line, TV serials and the Actors Studio. She was nearly 40 years old before she finally made her mark in Hollywood—in **Peter Bogdanovich**'s "The Last Picture Show," where she played **Cybill Shepherd**'s mother!

James Dean did a lot of bit parts in movies and acted in commercials before his performance as an Arab pederast in "The Immoralist" on Broadway led to a contract with Warner Bros.

What about today's young stars? **Matt Damon** auditioned constantly for TV commercials and movies while growing up in Boston, but earned only one speaking part in a movie (a single line in the **Julia Roberts** film "Mystic Pizza") by the time he entered Harvard University. Somehow, he was able to juggle going to class with playing supporting roles in "Rising Son" and "School Ties."

But stardom continued to elude him until he dropped out of school to write the script for "Good Will Hunting" with **Ben Afleck**. But the script remained unproduced until Damon was finally noticed in a supporting performance in "Courage Under Fire." Months later, Miramax picked up "Good Will Hunting," and Damon finally became a star.

For her part, **Gwyneth Paltrow** was standing in line to see "The Silence of the Lambs" with her father, producer-director **Bruce Paltrow**, and his friend **Steven Spielberg** offered her the role of young Wendy in "Hook." She hasn't stopped working since.

At 14, **Katie Holmes**' mother enrolled her in modeling school to learn good manners. Every year, the girls went to New York City to perform for talent scouts. When Katie was 17, she recited a monologue from "To Kill A Mockingbird." The next day, 30 agents called her!

Within weeks, she flew to Los Angeles to meet with some of them. As a result, she landed roles on "Dawson's Creek" and in "The Ice Storm."

Quote, unquote

WILLIAM Feather: An idea isn't worth much until a man is found who has the energy and ability to make it work.

George Hegel: Nothing great in this world has been accomplished without passion.

Janice Elice Hopkins: Genius is the infinite capacity for taking pains.

EXCITEMENT KICKS OFF ON JANUARY 12!
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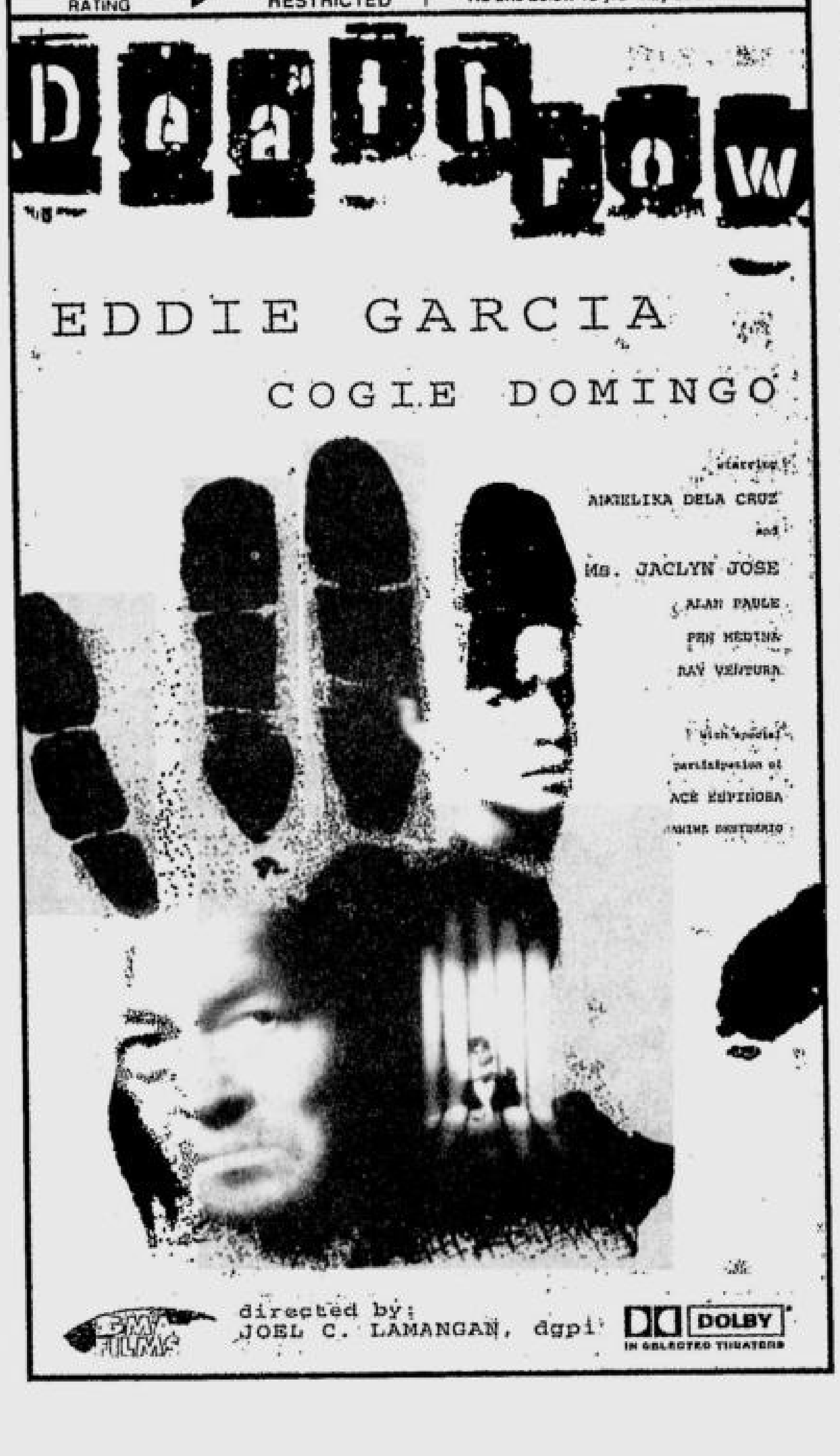
MTRCB RATING ▶ R RESTRICTED | Strictly for adults No one below 18 yrs. may be admitted.



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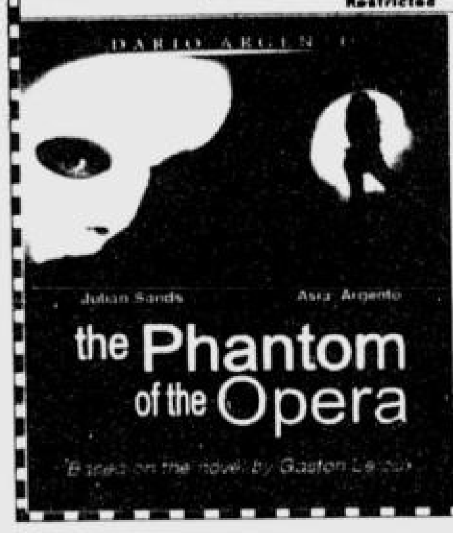
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND•EX

1	2	3
TANGING YAMAN 12:20, 4:45, 5:10, 7:35, 10:00	MEET THE PARENTS 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00	MEET THE PARENTS 12:50, 3:20, 5:50, 8:20
4	**5**	**6**
THE 6TH DAY 11:40, 2:10, 4:40, 7:10, 9:40	EMPERORS NEW GROOVE 1:40, 3:30, 5:20, 8:30	EMPERORS NEW GROOVE 12:50, 2:40, 4:30, 6:20, 8:10, 10:00

AYALA CINEMAS
ARTFILM - GLORIETTA 4
Opens JAN. 10 (Wed.), 2001
Art Film
MTRCB RATING ▶ R Restricted | STRICTLY FOR ADULTS No one below 18 yrs. may be admitted


DARIO ARGENTO
Julian Sands
Asia Argento
the Phantom of the Opera
Based on the novel by Gaston Leroux

PHILIPPINE PREMIERE
the Phantom of the Opera

Julian Sands
"He"
is a monster
"He" is the
personification
of the world's mysteries
and nightmares...

Asia Argento
"She"
is Christine...
Stunningly beautiful...
Lost in an abyss
of torture
and forbidden pleasures...

Creating this mosaic of suspense, music, vivid colours and gothic architecture has been the greatest challenge of my career as a film maker
--- Dario Argento

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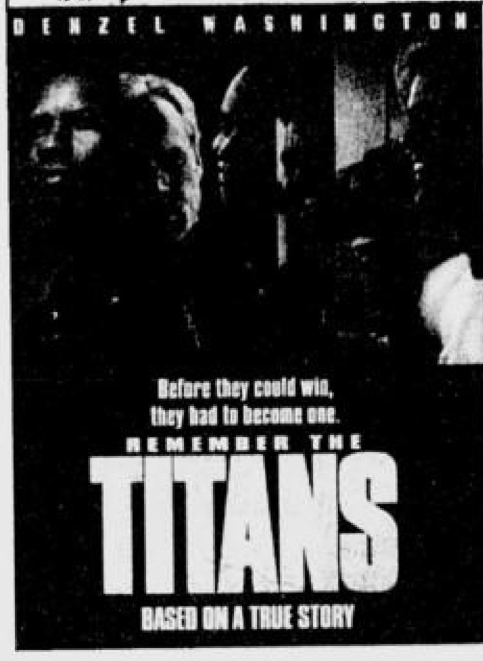
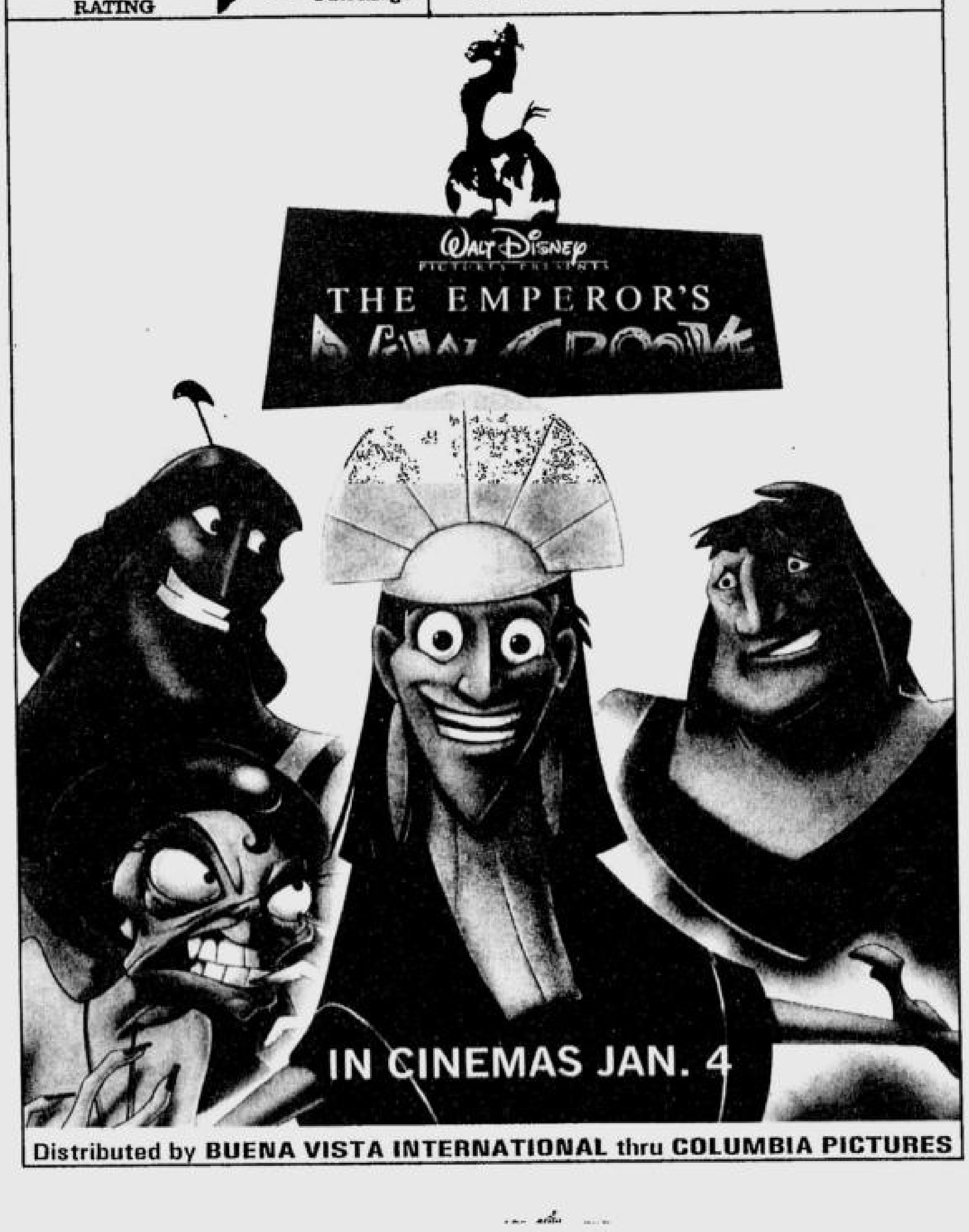
SNEAK PREVIEWS JANUARY 8 & 9
INSPIRATIONAL FEEL-GOOD MIGHT TRIUMPS ON SCREEN JAN. 17
MTRCB ▶ G General Patronage | ALL AGES ADMITTED


DENZEL WASHINGTON
Before they could win, they had to become one.
REMEMBER THE TITANS
BASED ON A TRUE STORY

"In Greek mythology, the Titans were greater than the gods. They ruled their universe with absolute power. Let's rule like Titans."
And rule it does. Taking the U.S. by storm, "Remember the Titans" opened at the #1 spot in the U.S.with $21M, registering the biggest Denzel Washington opening weekend ever and generating the 3rd largest September opening in U.S. film industry history. It has grossed over $110M and continues to play to receptive audiences
Based on an inspirational and emotionally uplifting true story about 2 coaches, Boone (Denzel) and Yoast (Will Patton) who turned boys into men, united players into a team, and turned winners into heroes, it counts a young, talented and good-looking roster of male stars including Donald Faison (Felicity), Ryan Hurst and Kip "Sunshine" Pardue. Jerry Bruckheimer (Armageddon, Con Air) produced this sure-fire Oscar contender. One movie you'll never forget. Troop to the cinemas to
REMEMBER THE TITANS

4TH GROOVY KING-SIZE FAMILY FUN DAY
MTRCB RATING ▶ G General Patronage | ALL AGES ADMITTED



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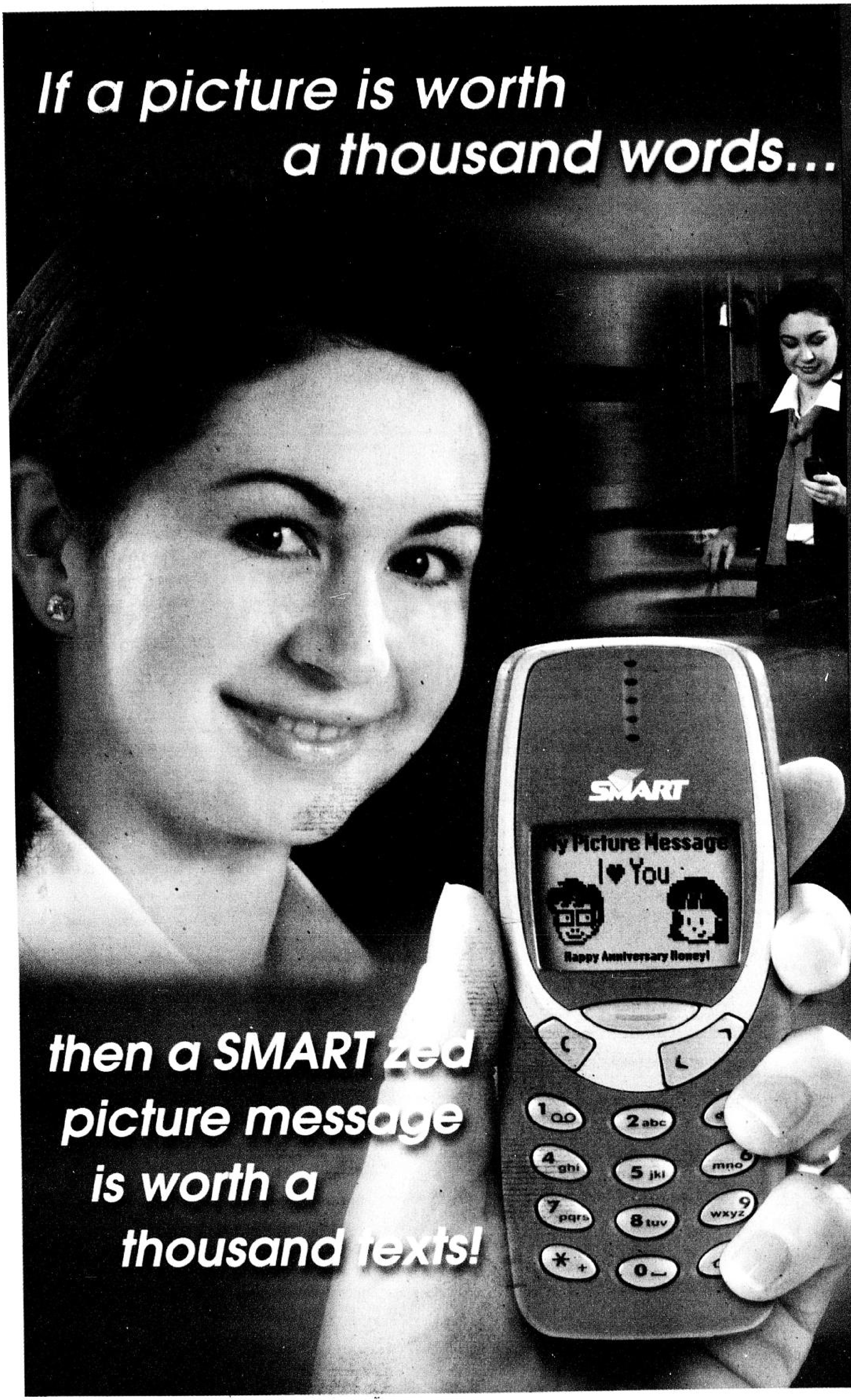
If a picture is worth a thousand words...



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PIC ILY
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Note: (message is optional)

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PIC <pic name>
    <recipient's mobile number>
    <message>
PIC NEW
PIC TOPTEN

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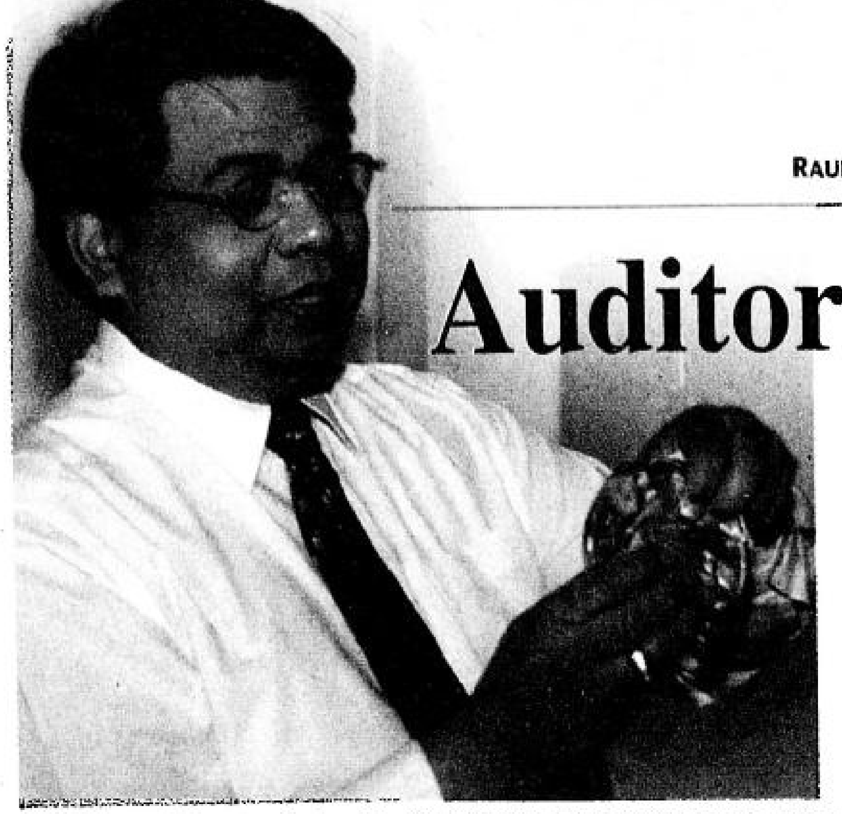
Sunday **BIZ**

Raul O. Marcelo, Editor ▣ **Margie Quimpo-Espino**, Business Features Editor

Auditor gets stress relief from dolphins



JERRY Isla did not really buy his first dolphin piece with the thought of starting a collection.

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

JERRY S. Isla, vice chair of leading financial services firm Joaquin Cunanan and Co., was walking along a street in Canada when a ceramic figurine of three dolphins balancing on top of a wave caught his attention.

It was perhaps fated that Isla and this figurine would come together as he is not one to go into a gift shop to buy something for himself. He usually buys things for others.

He ended up getting the figurine that cost less than $20 saying that he was intrigued by the workmanship and it appealed to his senses.

Little did he know that it would be the start of a collection of dolphin art pieces that would give him a sense of peace amid his busy life as vice chair and concurrently managing partner for Joaquin Cunanan's assurance and business advisory services group.

"I bought my first figurine simply because I was attracted to the artwork. I did not have any intention of starting a collection," Isla tells the Inquirer.

It was when his daughter bought him an exquisite Chokin Japanese art piece also showing three dolphins atop a wave that he got the idea to start an honest-to-goodness collection of dolphin art pieces.

"Because of the two art pieces I now make a conscious decision to look for dolphins when I go abroad. I also look for some pieces when I go shopping here," Isla explains.

Over the past few years, Isla has accumulated a treasure trove of 11 dolphin art pieces. They are made of crystal, wood and glass. These they bought during travels to Melbourne, Sydney and in Singapore.

One of his favorite pieces is a single blue dolphin made of wood, which he bought from Bali, Indonesia. Isla says he loves the finishing of the wooden piece that is the same as what is used in painting surfboards.

Over the holidays, he boosted his collection with a Christofle dolphin from Singapore and another, gift from his daughter.

The dolphins are displayed prominently in his office and they

AUDITOR/ B2

Retailers report disappointing Christmas season, warn of slowdown

NEW YORK—In what some analysts are describing as the weakest performance in at least a decade, the US retailers reported holiday sales that were even more disappointing than expected, the result of a souring economy and bad winter weather.

The somber news prompted a slew of companies including Gap Inc., Intimate Brands Inc., Limited Inc., AnnTaylor Stores Corp. and Tiffany & Co. to warn Thursday that fourth-quarter earnings would fall below estimates. The heavy markdowns retailers needed to bring customers into the stores decimated profits for many.

Sears, Roebuck and Co. announced the closings of 89 underperforming stores, including stores which sells tires and batteries, as well as 30 hardware stores and four regular Sears stores. Other retailers said that they would cut expenses and pare inventory to respond to the economic slowdown.

Even Wal-Mart Stores Inc., the world's largest retailer and usually one of the industry's best performers, reported December results below its already reduced estimates. It reported sales at stores open at least a year, known as same-store sales, rose a meager 0.3 percent from a year earlier—down considerably from revised expectations of sales in the 3-percent to 5-percent range.

"The Grinch stole Christmas," said Kurt Barnard, publisher of the Barnard Retail Trend Report, based in Upper Montclair, New Jersey "I haven't seen anything like this in nine or 10 years. We are seeing a consumer badly strapped for spending money, and under the influence of pessimism."

Teens

He said the only consumers who seemed to be spending freely were teens. They headed for specialty chains like Hot Topics, American Eagle and Gadzooks Inc., all of which reported strong sales for the month.

Jeffrey Feiner, managing director at Lehman Brothers, who had lowered his estimates twice, now puts holiday same-store sales falling 0.1 percent for his index of 22 major retailers.

"This was pretty bad," he said. However, he believes that with the Federal Reserve's move on Wednesday to lower interest rates, the scenario should improve.

"There is light at the end of the tunnel," Feiner said. "I think we reached bottom."

Nonetheless, this year is expected to be a painful one. A Conference Board report, issued last week, that consumer confidence was down to its lowest level in two years, which means a slow start to 2001.

"The effects of a lousy Christmas is going to continue through the first quarter," Michael Niemera, vice president of Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi Ltd., said. "A lot of stores are going to have to rethink their strategies, reducing the number of stores, for example, to adjust to a slower pace." He foresees same-store sales gains of a minimal one percent to 2 percent this year.

Combination

Retailers were braced for a difficult holiday season, but the combination of factors including the stock market's volatility and higher fuel prices took more of a toll on consumer spending than initially thought.

Moreover, stores were hurt by winter storms that kept shoppers from driving to the malls. After a strong start to the holiday season, sales deteriorated throughout the month, only picking up during the last week before Christmas. By then, it was just too late.

With the exception of the teen sector, the malaise was spread across all retail categories, from discounters to department stores.Many of the stores, including Federated Department Stores and Zale Corp. came in at the low end of their already reduced sales estimates. But plenty of others, such as Gap and Kmart Corp. saw sales fall below their already drastically cut forecasts.

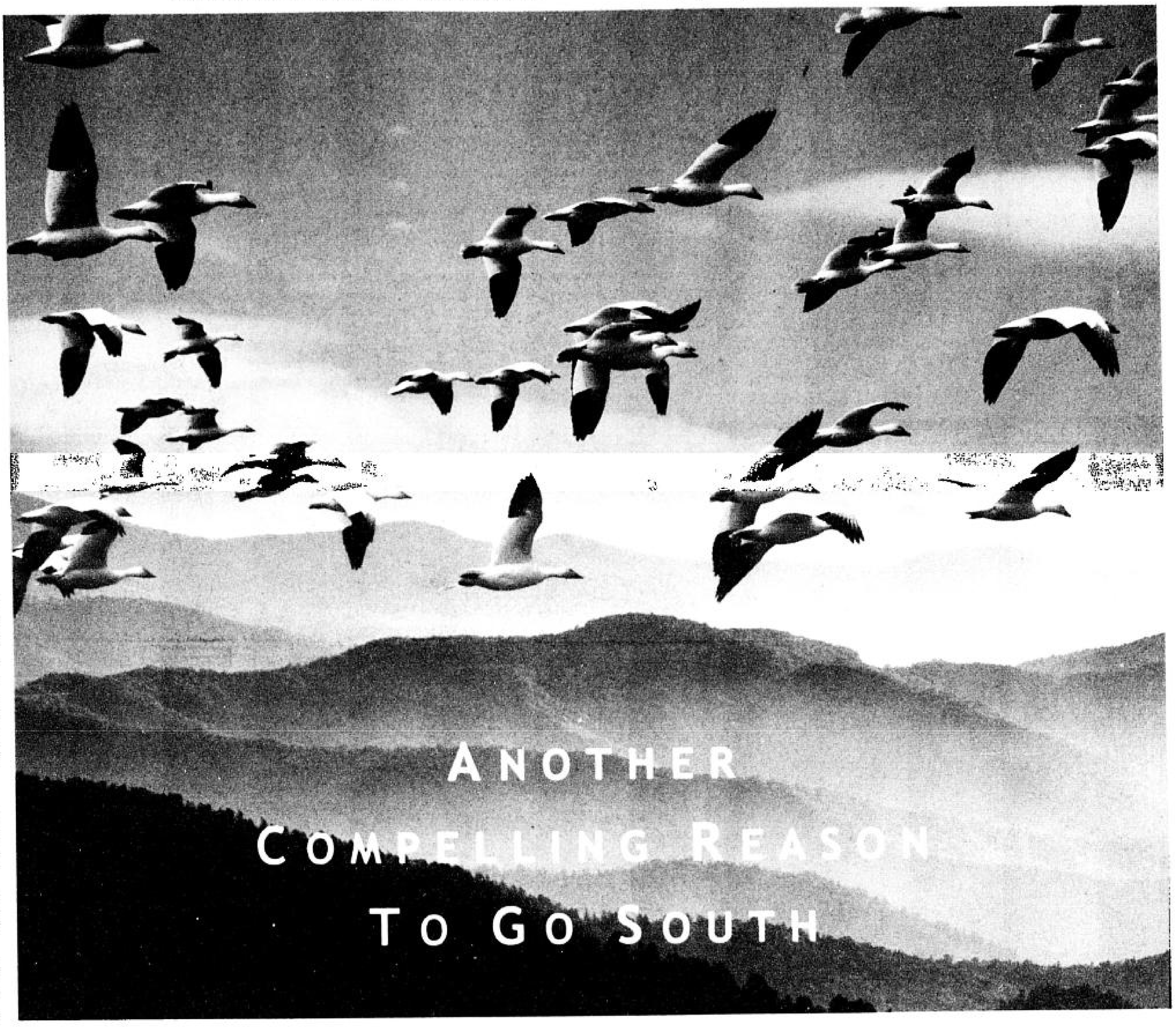
"Shoppers this year were significantly more bargain-conscious than they were last year and purchased more sale-priced merchandise," Joseph R. Ettore, chair and chief executive officer at Ames Department Stores, which reported a 2.6-percent decrease in same-store sales and a 0.7-percent drop in total sales.

At Dillard Inc., same-store sales and total sales were down 4 percent. Limited reported same-store sales were unchanged from a year ago, with total sales gaining 2 percent. AnnTaylor Stores said same-store sales were down 0.3 percent, with total sales increasing 14.4 percent.

Selected figures on December's sales at other leading chains:

- Kmart saw same-store sales rose 0.7 percent, while total sales fell 1.4 percent.
- May Department Stores Co., same-store sales were up one percent; total sales gained 3.8 percent.
- Abercrombie & Fitch, same-store sales were down 11 percent; total sales gained 12 percent.
- Talbots Inc., same-store sales were up 12.9 percent; total sales were up 17 percent.
- Hot Topic Inc., same-store sales were up 8.1 percent; total sales increased 37 percent.

AP



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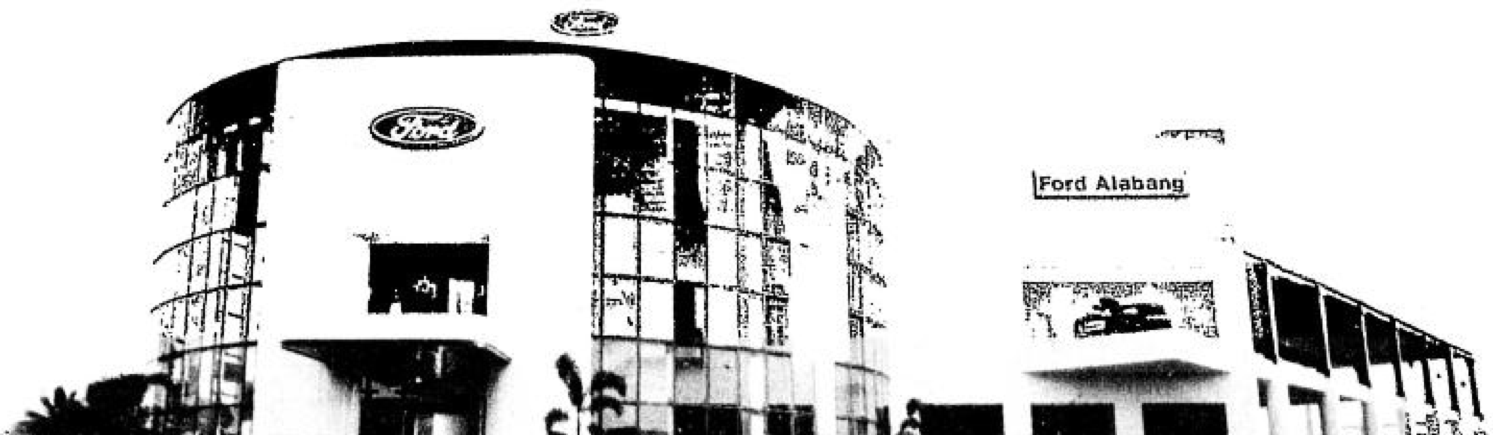

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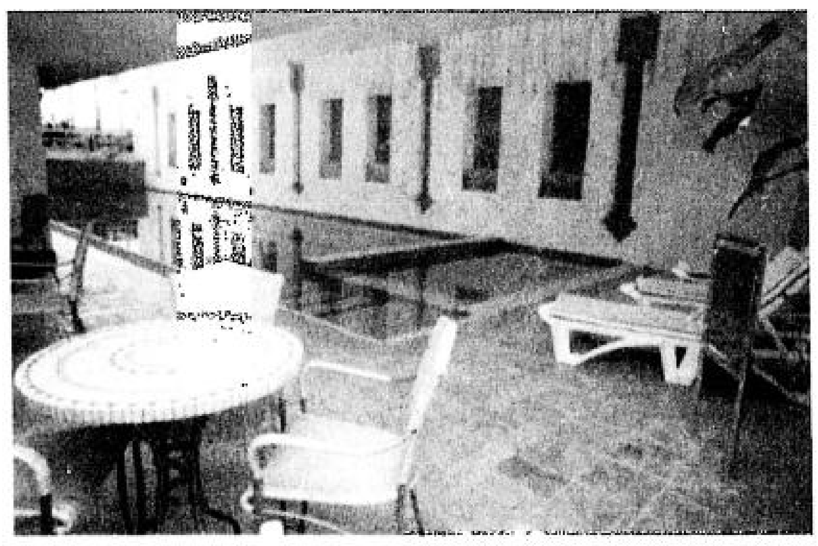
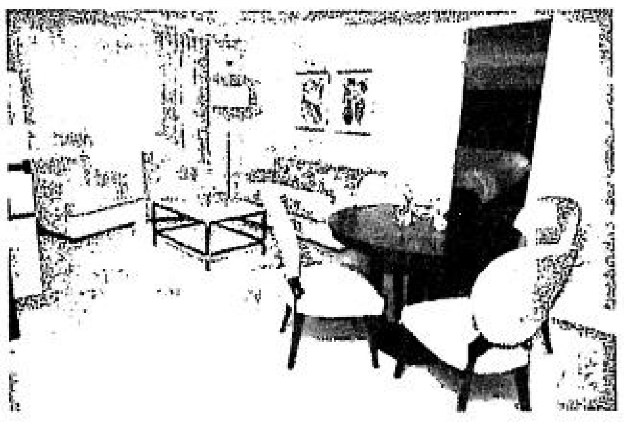
Apartelle to beat others by offering privacy

THE RESIDENT'S lounge in wood and granite is for the exclusive use of in-house guests.



THE INDOOR pool and whirlpool provide a venue for relaxation.

FULLY EQUIPPED kitchen facilities are also provided guests including plates, crockery and kitchen appliances.



THE SUITES at Somerset have separate living and dining areas like a typical house.

WITH the decline in the number of business travelers and corporate groups coupled with the increase in the number of hotels and serviced apartments, the local hospitality industry has never been more competitive.

Even the biggest of the deluxe hotels are lowering their tariff rates just to lure the few visitors coming to town.

Somerset Millennium Executive Residences, a member of the Somerset International serviced apartment chain based in Singapore, tries to entice travelers and expatriates away from the competition by offering good prices and, most importantly, privacy.

Joanne Golong, who heads Somerset's sales and marketing group, tells the INQUIRER that most of the hotels and the serviced apartments in its class offer practically the same amenities and facilities in the rooms.

What will differentiate these hotels and serviced apartments, she says, will be the service and the price especially in these times when customers have such a wide variety of choices to fit their budgets.

"Our guests say that they like our property because it is not that expensive yet it has all the facilities they need. They also put value on the privacy we provide. Everything is quiet and there are not too many people hanging around, only the guests," Golong explains.

The Somerset Executive Residences along Aguirre Street in Legaspi Village offers 130 different rooms to suit every budget. All of the rooms have basic hotel facilities such as cable TV, safe and telephone lines and entertainment facilities such as VCD players. Extras include a fully equipped kitchen with crockery and cutlery, refrigerator, cooker and a microwave oven as the hotel caters to guests staying at least one month.

A one-bedroom apartment spanning 59 square meters costs $165 a day or $4,950 a month. The top-of-the-line two-bedroom premiere suite, on the other hand, runs to $300 a night and $9,000 a month.

The deluxe unit, which caters to overnight guests, costs about $120 a night while a studio premiere unit which also comes with a fully equipped kitchen costs $150 a night.

The residences are complemented by business facilities such as a fully equipped business center where guests can avail of secretarial services and meeting rooms where clients can conduct meetings or seminars.

The Le Soufflé bistro provides dining services at the resident's lounge located at the 10th floor where guests can relax and mingle after a day's work. Somerset also provides a fitness club, swimming pool and whirlpool for stress relief.

Golong says Asian businessmen currently comprise the bulk of its residents since the Somerset group has a strong presence in the serviced apartment market across Asia.

The Somerset group has 36 properties across Asia, which are centrally marketed from the office in Singapore. Some of these properties are located in Singapore, Jakarta, Shanghai, Auckland, Kuala Lumpur and Hanoi.

She says local residents are bringing in more business these days as many foreign travelers shy away from the country due to the ongoing political and economic turmoil.

Golong, however, stresses that the Somerset group is unfazed by the crisis and is even looking to expand its presence in the Philippines by putting up similar properties in areas outside Metro Manila.

The Somerset group, she says, believes there is a growing market for serviced apartments as many expatriates want to have that homey feeling and yet want full hotel services. Serviced apartments offer the best of both worlds. *Tina Arceo-Dumlao*

IN YOUR FACE

BY L. P. LEVISTE

ESTELITO Mendoza, reputedly the Philippine's best and most expensive trial awyer (who supposedly asks that payments to him be made in dollars), is in danger of losing his place in the Bar due to allegations that he witnessed attempts by the embattled President's friends to cover up the controversial "Jose Velarde" account.

Mendoza, who counts Lucio Tan, Eduardo Cojuangco, Imelda Marcos and now President Estrada among his clients, denies any wrongdoing and tells the impeachment court he did not have any hand or knowledge in any kind of cover-up. Few, however, seem to believe him.

Although no one can deny the skills of the lawyer, some wonder whether his biggest case may just end up as his last. If so, is the fee worth it?

Auditor gets stress relief . . .

(From page B2)

provide him quick stress release. He says his thoughts are quickly transported to the many places he went to when he bought the different pieces.

"Whenever I feel tired, I feel good just looking at my dolphins. I can even picture in my mind the exact shop and street where I bought the different pieces. There was a time when I would just remember the meetings and the work we do when we travel. Now I have different memories," Isla says.

Isla does not really know what attracts him to the dolphins. He just says it may have something to do with the image of a dolphin as being intelligent. It has also long been a symbol for good.

"In contrast to other creatures at see, dolphins are kind, intelligent and are friendly to human kind," Isla says.

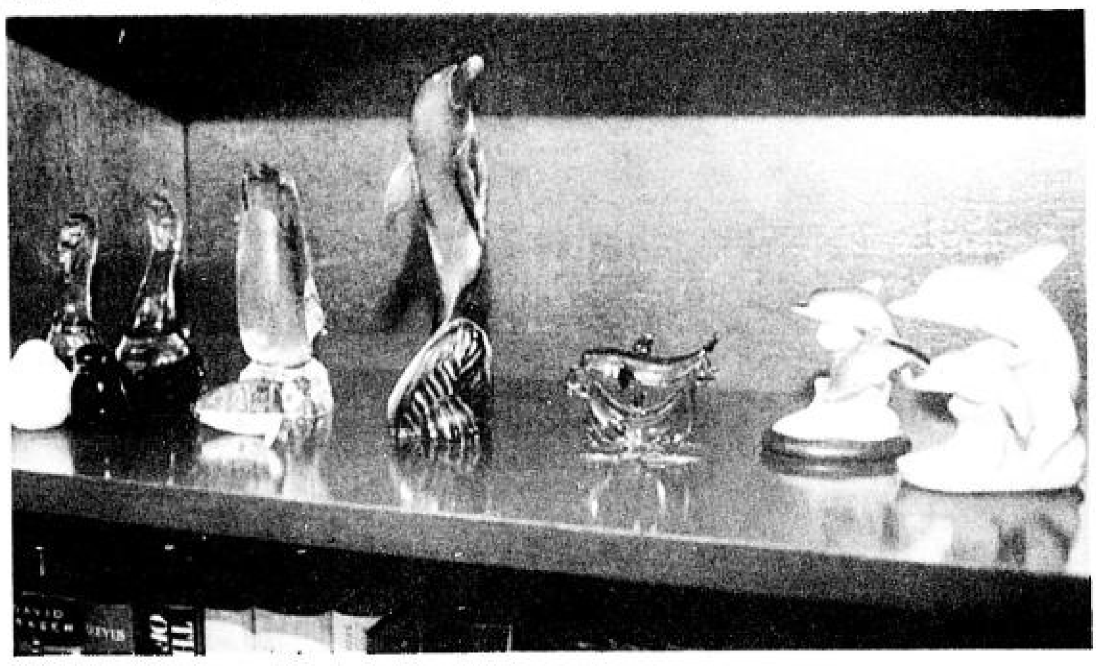
Isla gets the chance to acquire more dolphin pieces as he frequently travels abroad as part of his job at Joaquin Cunanan & Co. On top of this, he is responsible for meeting the performance goals of three audit groups and three other sub-business units.

He has over 30 years of financial audit, business advisory and consultancy experience. He has advised clients in doing initial public offerings, acquisitions, fund raising and in restructuring.

Isla has also served a range of companies through his distinguished career including manufacturing, distribution, mining, real estate, semiconductors, telecommunications, media and entertainment.

"I promised myself to pick up my golf game again this year to also help relieve stress aside from looking at my dolphins," Isla says.

ISLA now consciously looks for dolphin pieces when he travels abroad, especially those with more than one dolphin dancing on top of waves.



HIS dolphins need not be expensive as long as the workmanship is good. PHOTOS BY JOHNNY VILLENA

Bangkok Land burnishes its 'Golden Town'

BANGKOK—When Asia's fortunes rose in the early 1990s, those of the Kanjanapas family rose with them. Their 60-percent owned property company, Bangkok Land Plc, had a market value of $5.2 billion in 1992, the biggest on Thailand's stock exchange. And on the edge of Bangkok, their dream city was taking shape.

The development, which the Kanjanapases projected would eventually house 500,000 people, was called Muang Thong Thani-Golden Town. Today their dreams look like fool's gold to many investors.

Bangkok Land is staggering under $1 billion of debt, including $378 million of international bonds on which it defaulted in 1998. Its market value has plummeted to $36 million.

Along Lakeside Avenue, one of Muang Thong Thani's main thoroughfares, most of the 24 apartment blocks, each 32 stories high, are virtually empty. Some ground-floor units, reserved for shops, still contain signs boasting that they'll be ready to open "in late 1994."

Much of the sprawling development, which covers an area triple the size of London's financial district, stands half-finished and rusting—a monument to the debt-financed speculation that unleashed devaluation, default, and recession across Asia in the late 1990s.

Undaunted

For all of this, Anant Kanjanapas, eldest son of family patriarch Mongkol and chief executive of Bangkok Land, is undaunted. As he gazes over the flatlands of Golden Town 20 miles north of downtown Bangkok, Anant points to a field where he plans to build a $50-million shopping mall in a venture with an affiliate of Germany's Commerzbank AG. "People will leave here with a bag (of something purchased) on every finger," he says.

When told that officials at the local post office estimate Golden Town is now home to 40,000 people, Anant offers up a copy of a government document that says 60,000 registered voters now live in the satellite city.

The crisis of the late 1990s—sparked in part by rampant overseas borrowing by Thai companies like Bangkok Land—forced Anant's family to sell businesses and some of their vast holdings of Thai real estate.

Yet they managed to hold on to their stake in Bangkok Land. Today Anant is bringing the company back to profitability. Bangkok Land earned 7.6 billion baht ($174 million) in the fiscal year ended in March 2000—after a loss of 7 billion baht the year before—thanks largely to fees that it collects from hosting ade shows and other events.

The turnaround began after Anant built an events hall and a 12,000-seat arena for the 1998 Asian Games. The government extended an expressway into Golden Town.

Disney on Ice

Now Anant wants to build the world's biggest convention and exhibition complex, plus massive shopping malls and entertainment centers. "Disney on Ice, Elton John, and (Luciano) Pavarotti will all be here," he predicts. He says the events will also revitalize sales of apartments.

Bangkok Land has worked out new payment terms with several of its largest creditors, including Bangkok Bank Plc, Siam City Bank Plc, and Siam Commercial Bank Plc, which are owed about $500 million. Payments have been postponed for up to 10 years, and some property has been swapped for debt.

"We saved the Titanic," says Anant. "We are afloat."

The future of Golden Town is far from certain. Much will depend on the still-fragile Thai economy. While the country has recovered from its 1997-98 recession and expanded by roughly 5 percent in 2000, high oil prices and slowing US growth pose a threat to the economy. Anant is intent on keeping Bangkok Land and handing it down to sons Peter and Paul, both of them Bangkok Land executives.

"I don't care about the Thai economy; I'm only interested in this city," Anant says.

The Golden Town story begins with Anant's father, Mongkol Kanjanapas, also known by his Chinese name, Wong Chue-meng. Mongkol was born in southern China in 1920; he emigrated to Thailand two decades later and began his career by repairing watches in Bangkok's Chinatown.

Within a few years, he was doing well enough to buy the distribution rights for Seiko watches. In 1963 Mongkol established a Hong Kong watch company, Stelux International Ltd. By the late 1960s, he was moving aggressively into the Bangkok and Hong Kong property markets. Most of the land making up what is now Golden Town was bought before 1975, when it was still rice fields.

Schooled in Switzerland and conversant in Thai, Chinese, French, and English, Anant started out managing watch production and property projects at Stelux in Hong Kong. There he watched that city's real estate tycoons grow rich building high-rise "new towns" in the then British colony's rural New Territories, south of the Chinese border.

In the mid-1980s Anant sensed that Thailand was on the cusp of an economic boom, and he returned to Bangkok with his dream of Golden Town.

Ethics . . .

(From page B10)

the group decides one is 'right" and the other is "wrong"; or it is universally accepted to be intrinsically right (like agape love) or wrong (like murder).

However, the book says mere group consensus as an ethical basis would justify. For example, a neighborhood tacit agreement to oppose any colored family to enter its enclave.

And fundamental principles or dogmas of not "lying" cannot apply when one withholds the truth from a criminal looking for your father. Author Dietrich Bonhoeffer in his book "Ethics" advances an arguable but helpful point: "You don't give the truth to someone who will misuse it."

"A one-size-fits-all" template for business morality is an illusion," the authors say. Thus out of this ethical predicament, the authors offer the "Integrative Social Contract Theory"—or ISCT.

They proceed from the principle that members of a certain community (including the business community) can enter into a "social contract" about how they can strengthen the "ties that bind" them, by agreeing to be governed by certain principles of living together. However, the authors emphasize that the same community must be governed by "hypernorms." These are "higher principles" that govern other ethical codes of a community.

The book has the lucidity of clearly enunciated and explained theories, taking the reader back to philosophical thoughts from as far back as Plato to modern day theologians as Hans Kung.

And they construct tables for decision-making processes. We are used to schematic diagrams and process charts for production flows and organizational relationships—but these "ethical tables" invite corporations to confront moral issues systematically—using the social contract theory.

The question always remains. What is the leeway of an enterprise in deciding what is right or wrong? What are non-negotiable moral choices? How does one arrive at an ethical decision so that the enterprise reflects the moral code of the community where it operates? How do you keep alive the virtues of truth, freedom, honesty, integrity, fair play and caring—and reconcile them with the goals for efficiency, economic viability and market competition?

The authors are not giving the answers. But they sure are offering a menu of concepts, processes, experiences and examples—but leave the decision to the enterprise or the larger community.

The value of this book? It gives only one—a way of constructing one's own ethical code. Beyond doing what is inherently right, the enterprise will—sooner, not later—realize that conducting business ethically makes good business sense.

People, Events & Products

REZ GOPEZ-SINDAC, Editor

New technology reverses facial aging

A NEW technology in beauty treatment practically reverses facial aging while clearing the skin of various imperfections. This technology was introduced in the country by Dra. Letty Chua-Cham who specializes in various fields of medicine, including clinical and cosmetic dermatology and body care.

Dra. Cham held a demo on this new technology recently at the Becos Facial and Body Spa, opened early 2000 at the 2nd floor of JSB Building on Tomas Morato St., corner Sct. Delgado in Quezon City with telephone number 374-3331.

Becos uses pure crystals in this so-called "Power Peel Technology with Photoderm Therapy" to ensure in-depth skin regeneration and to counter the effects of sunlight, wind pollution and other elements on the aging process.

"The crystal cleanses and clears the skin of imperfections while restoring its original elasticity and radiance for a smoother, fresher, firmer, and more radiant and revitalized skin," Dra. Cham said.

"This technology is very ideal for wrinkles, post-acne scars, keloids, hyperpigmentation, and many other skin conditions," she added, citing the process as among the advanced treatments offered by Becos for premature aging due to exposure to the elements.

Becos also offers non-surgical facelifting that involves the use of sophisticated computer-aided machine. This state of the art German technology tones and lifts facial muscles with the added benefit of lymphatic drainage and without the risk of complications from surgery.

"The whole process thus results in painless, non-surgical facelifting and toning," Dra. Cham said.

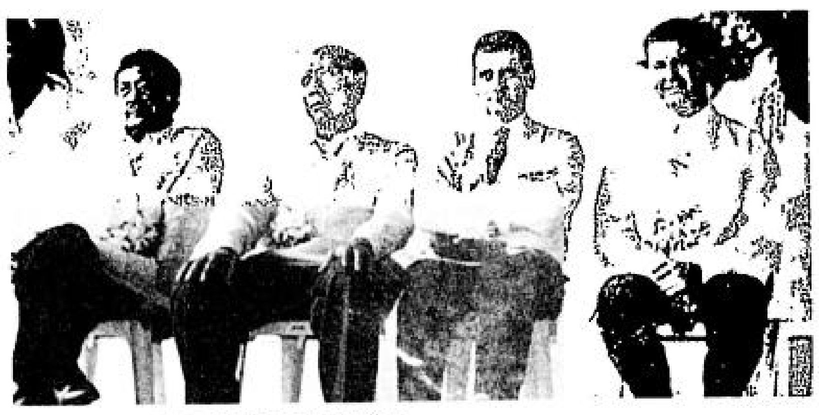
"Another first in the country is Becos' Deep Clarifying Facial Treatment, which uses ultrasound to gently lift dirt and oily deposits off the facial skin, giving you a clearer and more refined complexion without the pain that goes with the old and traumatic ways of facial treatment," she added.

Becos also uses a "Skin Tone Regulator" that stimulates the collagen and elastin layer of the skin.

The clinic got its name from a prestigious Italian brand of beauty products which Dra. Cham also introduced in the country. Becos' services also include the only USFDA-approved permanent hair removal treatment which, according to Dra. Cham, is backed by 52 years of clinical research.

DECS ENDORSES 6TH GTAAA

The Department of Education, Culture and Sports (DECS) has endorsed the 6th Globe Telecom Academic Achievement Awards (GTAAA), an annual industry-academe linkage program that promotes student excellence. Shown are DECS secretary Bro. Andrew Gonzales (fourth from left) and Globe Telecom AVP for public relations Jones Campos (third from left). With them are (from left) Globe Telecom officers Melissa Fontanilla, Steve Piczon, Stephanie Velasco and DECS senior education program specialist Lourdes Ilagan.



NESTLE PURE LIFE LAUNCH

Lawyer Marius Zabat of the San Pablo City mayor's office, Nestlé Philippines chair and CEO Juan B. Santos, Perrier Vittel Zone AOA senior vice president Garth Britton, and Hidden Spring and Perrier Inc. (HSPI) president and CEO Guy Bani lead the launch of Nestlé Pure Life at the HSPI plant in Laguna. The global brand of bottled water carries the name and seal of guarantee of Nestlé, the world's largest food company. HSPI, which produces Nestlé Pure Life locally, is 100 percent-owned subsidiary of Perrier Vittel in France, the world's largest bottle water company and a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Nestlé group.

CHED grants university status to Jose Rizal College

JOSE Rizal College has been converted to a university by unanimous resolution of the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) last Oct. 2, 2000. The university grant is the first and only one so far granted under the leadership of CHED chair Ester A. Garcia, The grant is also the first under the revised rules of CHED for university status and the first granted in over 5 years. These rules are, to date, the most rigorous rules developed by the government for university status, with a primary focus on quality education and research.

The investiture of the first president of the university was held Jan. 6 when Jose D. Baltazar, a lawyer and incumbent fifth president of the college, was sworn in. Dr. Baltazar earned his business degree at San Beda College, his law degree at University of Santo Tomas, and his graduate degree at Stanford University in the United States.

Established in 1919, Jose Rizal University was founded by Vicente Fabella, the first Filipino licensed to practice as a certified public accountant in the United States in 1915.

CDO OPENS NEW FACTORY OUTLET

Quezon City councilor Dingdong Avanzado (center) leads the inaugural rites of CDO-Foodsphere's new retail outlet held Dec. 8 at the Farmers Market in Cubao, Quezon City. With him are key officials of the multi-awarded food company led by its EVP and founder Corazon Dayro-Ong, SVP and general manager Jerome D. Ong, and AVP and national sales manager Ed R. Reataza.

DLSU offers scholarships for English teachers

DE LA SALLE University-Manila, through the English Language Education Department (ELED), will select 11 English teachers in both secondary and tertiary levels to receive scholarships for completion of a non-thesis master's degree. The scholarship fund is sourced through grants from the Commission on Higher Education, as a result of the department's selection as a Center of Excellence in English Language.

Applicants for the scholarship must be Filipino citizens and must be faculty of English (preferably full-time and permanent). Qualified applicants will enjoy a full tuition scholarship and book allowance throughout the duration of their study towards Master of Arts in Teaching English Language. The program will start during the first trimester of school year 2001-2002 in June.

Interested parties may contact Dr. Danilo Dayag, ELED Graduate Program coordinator at 524-4611 local 530 or email address cladtd@mail.dlsu.edu.ph. Deadline for submission of applicant is Jan. 15.

SPOUSES' WORKSHOP

Nestlé Cabuyao factory Human Resources Management conducted a candle-making workshop for spouses of factory personnel. The workshop was facilitated by Nida Tuazon of the Region IV division of the Technical Education and Skill Development Authority (TESDA). Photo shows some participants with samples of their handwork.

TRAVEL PHOTO EXHIBIT

"Changes: Israel Then and Now," a travelling photo exhibit showcasing the transformation of Israel from a sparsely inhabited land to a highly urbanized land in the region was recently mounted at the Ayala Museum, Makati City. Leading the ribbon cutting ceremony are (from left) Hagit Ben-Yaakov, second secretary, Israel embassy; Divina Jacome, councilor of Makati City; Irit Ben-Abba, ambassador, Israel embassy and Dr. Florina C. Baker, Ayala Museum director.

WELCO TO TH
FUND-M ANAO

CALTEX FUND-MINDANAO

Caltex Philippines' corporate citizenship program, Caltex Fund – Mindanao, which brings children off the streets and back to school was recently launched in Davao City with DSWD secretary Dulce Q. Saguisag as guest of honor. Five institutions from Davao and two from Cotabato received from the Caltex Fund a financial assistance program totaling P2.5 million. Shown are the awardees (seated) with secretary Saguisag, Caltex president Rico Cavestany, DSWD undersecretary Lualhati Pablo and regional director Luzentales.

BITS Clips

Holiday goodness at Burgoo

"CHESNUTS roasting on an open fire, jackfrost nipping at your nose..." Hmmm... sound and smell like Christmas. Taste the goodness of the season as Burgoo gives you discount coupons which will entitle you to as much as 50 percent discount on your next visits. Available for dine-in only, this special treat is valid until Jan. 31, 2001. Located at 310 Tomas Morato Extension, South Triangle, Diliman Quezon City, Burgoo opens daily from 11 a.m. to 2 a.m. the following day. For reservations and inquiries, call 927-7424, 927-7384 or 927-7396.

Detergent
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SC BORATORIES

ACTIF-SCW PARTNERSHIP

Actif Sante Phils. Inc., the country's newest premiere marketing company, recently signed a contract with SCW Laboratories at Richmonde Hotel to market and distribute Superb Plus Detergent Bar, Superb Plus Detergent Powder and High Giene Fabric Softeners. Shown are (from left) Shirley Nadores, SCW executive assistant; Anna Marie Y. Mendoza, SCW VP for finance; Victoria Y. Bulan, SCW president; Jaime B. Santos, Actif president; Romeo Q. Navales, Actif marketing director and Edmon S. Ondevilla, Actif sales director.

Hello Kitty discount promo

FANS of the loveable Hello Kitty will be tickled pink with the latest promo from Pocketbell. The young and the young-at-heart can now enjoy a 45 percent discount on all Hello Kitty pagers being sold at Pocketbell counters, Gift Gate and Sanrio Surprises stores. These cute and colorful pagers come complete with a Hello Kitty vanity case, as well as an authentic belt clip and holster. And due to Pocketbell's convenient plan, subscribers will not be hassled with documentation or monthly bills. Best of all, the pagers will be instantly activated, making a perfect gift.

IFS-GENERALI PILIPINAS CONTRACT SIGNING

International Financial Systems (IFS) became yet another global company that has undertaken a group life insurance plan for its employees with Generali Pilipinas Life Assurance Company. Signing the insurance contract are IFS country manager Jose Angelico Cruz (seated, left) and Generali Pilipinas president and CEO Alfonso Garcia Jr. Looking on are Jose Laurea and Maricor Pacete, corporate accounts officers and Jose R. Millan, vice president for corporate marketing.

Business at the speed of now

IN their continuing effort to provide real-time information to their customers, Compaq Computer Philippines Inc., recently introduced in the local market the newest technological breakthrough called Zero Latency Enterprise (ZLE) that takes the lag time or "information float" out of a company's day-to-day business. With the ZLE, Compaq aims to effectively transform enterprises into more accessible and more responsive organizations.

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HOTEL In Baguio 4Sty 655-8371 CP0919-4037225

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Corithian;Greenhills;Valle Verde Houses for Sale - P22M & up Rent - P75th & up 7222174/ 76/ 82 -Mercy

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Roxas Dist. 200m² 18T/m² w/Lot 928-3267/920-2001

SORIANO Hway 177m² 189m² 298m² 407m² Tanza T3673915/16

HOUSE & LOT

ALABANG

Ayala Greenfields P10T/m² 372-0888 / 372-0825

MAKATI

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PARANAQUE

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QUEZON CITY

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GSIS Hills C-5 Quirino H-way New P3.9M LA300 4br 721-5226

Polanon/Pao[illegible] Hse 26/m² P7 [illegible] 4110381

BF QC P16M Nice 9323892

Bnew TSora 3.5M neg 4BR 4TB 1CG Cesar 453-4920

Fern QC bnew 2sty 4M 4BR 4TB 2CG Pgr1441742219

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•Pao St Sta Mesa Hts• 267m² P7.5M 4110381

Rush Sale Vets Village Proj. 7 nr SM City 200m² 5BR 3TB family area 2carg[r]g spacious attic T4158218; 3711254

SACRIFICE SALE! Nr Congrs'l-Cherry P3.9M LA211m 4BR3TB 3car Nice 454-8562/454-8528

West Triangle Hse & Lot 620m² 13M 928-3267

RIZAL

3BR 214m² 2car grge San Jose Rodriguez 649-2298

Brookside Cainta LA743 Modern Kitchen Strong Water 636-7587

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REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

HOUSE & LOT

RIZAL

FREE of Flood & Faultline Ridgemont Exec Vill P1.9M

nr Ortigas Ext
CAINTA NEW FRENCH STRONG 3BR Bung 2 c'port Lot:150m² 9488240/9334971

SAN JUAN

400m² 3BR 1Den Mds Rm 9.8M 4302633;1441867832

GREENHILLS P40M BR GOOD BUY 671-4421

Nr. G'Hills Sale or Rent 1362m² FA700 721-3832/35

PROVINCIAL

BEL-AIR LAGUNA 16 UNITS P935,000 • T671-4421

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•Marilao P680Tup terms
•Alg Qrino Hwy/Igay P450T
4133313 • 3623715-16

OTHER AREAS

Teachers Vill 409m² H/L w /off 5br/5tb 9M 928-3267

LOT

MANILA

**Ermita Cor Lot 880m² 28/m² Nr Escoda Call 413-4411

200m Onrubia Binondo @P45T/m² 454-8562

Abad Santos Cor 373-1313

MARIKINA

House & Lot, No. 7, Puerto Rico St. Loyola Grand Villas, Marikina, Metro Manila, Lot Area 600sqm. floor area 380 sqm. 4 bedrooms & 4T&B with swimming pool, P11,000,000.00 (negotiable). 10% d/p balance payable in 5-10 years. Brokers welcome. Call Ms. Len Gillego, Mr. Junar Sacdalan or Atty. Danny Bunyi at 638-3173 to 86 (office hours only)

PARANAQUE

BARGAIN! RUSH! 220sqm P4,300/sqm T#826-2056

FILINVEST PQUE 9 LOTS P6,200 / P7,000 T671-4421

PASIG

Ortigas Center Infront Tektite 5090m² 928-3267

Ortigas Center Infront Tektite 5090m² 928-3267

QUEZON CITY

• Acropolis 414m² P40T/m²
• South DBO 721-5226

• West Triangle LA434 5br
• P11.8M Direct 721-5226

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**Sta Mesa Hts Rush P8M 378m² Nr Retiro 413-4411

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•F'view 95m²up Terms
•LGrand Villas P6000/m²
•450m²up Mindanao Ave
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LOT

QUEZON CITY

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Vacant Lot, Kolambong-Lapasan Highway, Cagayan de Oro City, 151 sqm. P2,009,000.00 (negotiable). Brokers welcome. 10% d/p. balance payable in 5-10 years. Call Ms. Len Gillego, Mr. Junar Sacdalan or Atty. Danny Bunyi at 638-3173 to 86 (office hours only)

Vacant Lot, Lot 18, Blk. 10 Muralla Industrial Park, Bo. Libtong, Meycauyan, Bulacan 4,788sqm. P12,700,000.00 (negotiable) 10% d/p balance payable in 5-10 years. Brokers welcome. Call Ms. Len Gillego, Mr. Junar Sacdalan or Atty. Danny Bunyi at 638-3173 to 86 (office hours only)

Vacant Lot, National Road, Bo. Arimbay, Legaspi City, 2,000 sqm. TCT No. 37987, P1,600,000.00 (negotiable) 10% d/p balance payable in 5-10 years. Brokers welcome. Call Ms. Len Gillego, Mr. Junar Sacdalan or Atty. Danny Bunyi at 638-3173 to 86 (office hours only)

OTHER AREAS

Commercial Lot with Single Storey Warehouse, Gen. Tirona St. cor. Progreso St., Bagong Barrio, Caloocan City 1,008sqm. P9,900,000.00 (Negotiable) 10% d/p, balance payable in 5-10 years. Brokers welcome. Call Ms. Len Gillego, Mr. Junar Sacdalan or Atty. Danny Bunyi at 638-3173 to 86 (Office hours only)

CONDO/TWNHSE/APT

MAKATI

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MANDALUYONG

• Cityland Pioneer Mand • 1br Terms DBO 713-9429

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(AT THE BACK OF AYALA ALABANG)
- FRONTING KID'S PLAY PARK
- 586 sq m.

CONTACT: JANET ANG
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REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

CONDO/TWNHSE/APT

MANDALUYONG

Pioneer Highlands 2BR 74m² Bnew P3.3M 6714421

PARANAQUE

14Doors Apt Villa Mendoza Subd. Paranaque Tel. 825-1989

BETTER LIVING DP P400T Bal. 10 yrs P13T T-8732094

PASIG

**VV2 Condo 90sqm FA2BR/2TB MQ & CG Pasig Call 631-4497

715m² Luna Mencias nr. Araullo P29T/m² 4157979

B/New TH 2 stry/3BR/1CG 60-75m²P1.9M 4157979

QUEZON CITY

•Bnew Condo Gilmore Ave 3.5M 2BR 82/m² DBO 7215226

Sta Mesa Hts 80m² 4.3M 3Sty w/ Deck New 4134411

Commonwealth Accsbl 1 2Mup Cash/Inhouse 1441867832

CubaoCondoP1.3M "EZ"Terms nego discounts 9120647 9132224 4381480

Fairview 3BR 2TB 1CG Rene 150347915 / 4382966

Metrogreen nr ABC-Ch5 QC 2br1tb cor nr spool P1.3M 4133313 • 3623715-16

Nr. Visayas/QC Hall P2M 2BR Attic 2TB 24-Hr Sec Nice 454-8562/454-8528

Panay Twnhse 114m² 3Sty concrete 4.7M 928-3267

Rent/Sale Mariposa Town House 3br 3tb 724-8729

SMH Thses 2.6M 3731313 2BR 2TB Easy Terms

VL nr SM Fairview P4.500 /M² RUSH 700m² 4157979

SAN JUAN

• Royal View Sn Juan • P3.7M 3br 2tb 140m² 7215226

AnnapolisGH Condo 3MRm 170m² nice mdrm 9283267

Condo Front Xavier Schl 2br 2tb Mds Qrtr w/ tb Call 633-4611

OTHER AREAS

AYALA Center Cebu Holdings 209sqm Office for Rent / Sale Telefax Ms. Sison 831-6601 for details

IBUNA nr. P. Guevarra 231m² 5M w/fence 9283267

MEMORIAL LOT

Loy Mkna Lot 8386645/52

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

APARTMENT

MAKATI

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2) Townhouse - (95% complete) 2 sty., Lot 1 Buhawi Street, Capitol Estate Subdivision II, Matandang Balara LA-105 sqm.	2,215,000
3) Townhouse - (80% complete) 2 sty., Lot 2 Buhawi Street, Capitol Estate Subdivision II, Matandang Balara LA-104 sqm.	1,870,000
4) Townhouse - (50% complete) 2 sty., Lot 3 Buhawi Street, Capitol Estate Subdivision II, Matandang Balara LA-87 sqm.	1,255,000
5) Res'l H & L - 2 storey / Lot 9 Blk 27 King Charles Ext'n, Kingspoint Subdivision, Bagbag, Novaliches LA-400 FA-235.72 sqm.	3,118,000
6) Res'l H & L - 1-sty. 3BR, 2TB, 2 car grge #1 Queensville Court, White Plains, QC LA-425 FA-356.6	8,590,000
7) Thouse - 2 sty 3BR,2TB / Lot 12D, Classic Thomes, Marcelino St., Isidora Hills LA-40 FA-74	910,000
8) H&L - 2sty. / 43 Reliance St., Brgy. Nagkaisang Nayon, Novaliches LA-242 FA-145	540,000
NEAR BLUE RIDGE, QUEZON CITY	
9) Res'l H&L- 1-sty. w/ 3BR, 4TB, & garage / #117 Aquarius St., Cinco Hermanos Subdivision, Calumpang LA – 700 FA – 405 sqm.	9,640,000
10) Res'l H&L- 2-sty. w/ swimming pool and pelota court & gar. / #117 Aquarius St Cinco Hermanos Subdivision, Calumpang LA – 700 FA – 413 sqm.	9,170,000
MAKATI	
11) Res'l Condo.Unit - 2BR,2TB / Unit 515 Star Centrum, Gil Puyat Ave cor Malugay St. FA-93.94	3,200,000
12) Condo. Unit (studio type) 1TB - Unit 1105 Millenium Plaza, Makati Ave. cor Eduque FA-32.21	1,180,000
13) Condo. Unit (studio type) 1TB - Unit 1104 Millenium Plaza, Makati Ave. cor Eduque FA-52.35	2,200,000
SAN JUAN	
14) Condo Unit - 2BR, 2TB / Unit 1203 Platinum 2000, Annapolis St., Greenhills FA-113.6 PS-12.6	4,640,000
PASIG	
15) H&L-3BR,2TB, 2 car gar./ 109 Monaco St, Pasig Greenpark Vill., Manggahan LA-200 FA-148	1,930,000
16) Res'l Apartment - 3 units, 2 sty / 27-A Int. M. Concepcion St, San Joaquin LA-117 FA-151	1,945,000
CAINTA	
17) Res'l Lot - Rosewood St., Greenwoods Exec. Village LA-204 sqm.	450,000
18) [illegible] - 2BR, 2TB / Unit C, 3rd St., Gruar Subdivision LA-38 FA-60 sqm.	980,000
19) Thouse - 2BR, 2TB / Unit [illegible] 3rd St., Gruar Subdivision LA-69 FA-85 sqm.	1,150,000
20) Thouse - 2BR, 2TB, w/ attic / L6 B3, 3rd St., Gruar Subdivision LA-95 sqm.	1,450,000
21) H&L -2 door, 2 sty, with basement Rd Lot 1 Greenland Subd. Ph-VII LA-150 FA-159 sqm.	1,345,000
PARAÑAQUE	
22) Thouse - 2BR,2TB /L24 B4, El Dorado Ave,Levitown Subd., Betterliving LA-50 FA-49 sqm.	715,000
LAS PIÑAS	
23) H&L -1sty, 3BR, 2TB w/ pkg /L8 B37, Caellan St, BF Resort Vill, Pamplona LA-187.5 FA-81.75	1,200,000
24) H&L-1sty, 3BR, 2TB w/ pkg / L8 B33, Pio Pedrosa St., Vista Grande, BFRV LA-319 FA-226.7	3,010,000
25) Res'l H&L -3BR,2TB, w/ garage / L31 B2 VAA Circle, VAA Homes, BF Int'l LA=229 FA=102	2,220,000
CAVITE	
26) Rowhouse - 1sty w/ mezzanine / L18 B11 8th St., Alfonso VIII, Alapan, Imus LA-38 FA-40	280,000
27) Res'l Lot - L2 B2, Retirees Village II, Brgy. Mulawin, Tanza LA-250	310,000
28) Thouse - 1sty w/ mezz / L1 B16, 6th [illegible] 7th St., Alfonso VIII., Alapan, Imus LA-55 FA-40	345,000
29) Rowhouse - 1sty, 1BR, 1TB / L1 B5, R[illegible]ata West Subd., Bukandala, Imus LA-62 FA-34	395,000
30) H&L-5BR,2TB/ L22 B11,Neighborhood B, Parkplace Village, Imus LA-180 FA-114.46	630,000
LAGUNA	
31) Res. Apartment - 5 Door, 2 sty L24 B6, Villa Olympia, San Pedro LA-210 FA-322 sqm.	2,130,000
BULACAN	
32) H & L - 219 Cristina St., Guinhawa Subd., Malolos, Bulacan LA-466 FA-138 sqm.	1,445,000
COMMERCIAL	
KALOOKAN	
33) Commercial / Res'l Property 3-storey commercial Bldg. and 2 storey residential bldg. #111 Mariano Ponce St., Kalookan City LA-720 FA-1,117 sqm.	15,700,000
34) Commercial Warehouse - 2 storey #103 - 4th St., Grace Park, Kalookan LA-325 FA-630	7,600,000
35) Commercial Bldg - 3 sty. w/ Mezzanine & Roofdeck / #84-4th St.,Grace Park. LA-650 FA-1,925	22,900,000
36) Commercial Warehouse - 2 storey #428-10th Avenue, Grace Park. LA-480 FA-847	10,100,000
MANILA	
37) Comm'l Condo. Unit-Studio type/ Unit 1211 Espana Towers Condominium, Sampaloc FA-22	1,035,000
38) Comm'l Condo.- Studio type/ Unit1212 Espana Towers Condominium FA-22	1,035,000
39) Comm'l space (Entire 2/F) / KP Tower C M. Recto cor J. Luna St. Binondo FA-658	28,800,000
QUEZON CITY	
40) Comm'l/Res. Lot - Lot 9 Arty Road corner Mindanao Ave., Talipapa, Tandang Sora LA-440	8,000,000
MEYCAUAYAN, BULACAN	
41) Commercial/Industrial Lots - (9 Lots) Lots 1-B-6-A to 1-B-6-G, Lot 1-B-1-B, Lot 1-B-5, Brgy. Bahay Pare and Bagbaguin Meycauayan, Bulacan LA-9,975 sqm.	30,000,000

Please call Elna/Joy/Rosell at 893-86-20,812-63-56 (DL); 811-35-66 loc 2611-12; 892-00-11 loc 2255 & 2813
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REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

APARTMENT

QUEZON CITY

New 2BR2TB 4543486 Mhavic

SAN JUAN

2BR San Juan 9251348/40; 9206694

HOUSE

MAKATI

2Stry Dplx 3BR 3TB Grge w/ Tel nr P.Tamo 724-3244

Belair 3BR/3Bath Concrete Bungalow w/Den&Tel.Line Call: 8966822 or 8954059

PASIG

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106 Sampaguita VVerde 2 cozy 2sty 3BR5TB Lanai Den Gdn 70T neg. 8054659

Valle Verde House Pls Call Mrs. Saw 7275056

QUEZON CITY

2BR 1TB Strong H20 Tel West Ave. 10T T#3715766

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REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

HOUSE

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CONDO/TWNHSE

MAKATI

1BR Cundo Salc/Vill P12T Dplx BF Pque 3BRMD.Driv 4TB 15T 8055921/8015653

1BR Furn South Str Plz 844-7524

LegVill 145m² 3BR2TBsemi furn Sergio 09196011297

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MANILA

Alpha Grandview Mla 2br Furnished Call 7275056

MANDALUYONG

MAND CITY EXOTIVE MANTION 4BR 2TB W/ DEN BABY 531-8261

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REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

CONDO/TWNHSE

PASIG

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QUEZON CITY

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PERSONAL

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O Immaculate Virgin Mary, Mother of our Lord Jesus and our Mother, penetrated with the most likely confidence, in thy all-powerful and never failing intercession, mani-fested so often through the Miraculous Medal, with thy loving trustful children. Implore thee to obtain for us, the grace and favors we ask during the Novena, if they be beneficial to our immortal souls, and the souls for whom we pray. Thou knowest, O Mary, how our souls have been the sanctuaries of thy Son who hits inequity. Obtain for us then a deep hatred of sin and that purity of heart which will attach us to God alone so that our every thought, word and deed may tend to His greater glory. Obtain also for us a spirit of prayer and self-denial that we may recover by penance what we lost by sin and at length attain to that blessed abode where thou art the Queen of angels and of men. Amen.

INQUIRER TRiViA

By BONG BARRAMEDA

'Impeach'

Q. Where did 'impeach' come from?

A. The word goes back to the Latin *pedica*, meaning 'fetter; snare,' a derivative of *ped* ('foot'), which gave rise to *impedicare*, a verb meaning ' to tie the feet together.' As such, *impeach* is a close relative of *impede* and it came into English in the 14th century via French with exactly that meaning.

But almost from the roots of its history in English, *impeach* could also have the sense of bringing a charge or accusation against someone, usually but not always as a formal action at law. It seems that this additional meaning came about because writers got confused between *impedicare* and another Latin verb *impetere*, 'to attack; accuse' (from which comes the word *impetuous*). Once established with that additional erroneous sense, it was a short step to the modern meaning of accusing someone of high crimes before a competent tribunal or court. Eventually, the original sense fell out of use.

In recent decades, the rows over supposed Presidential misconduct and the subsequent calls for impeachment have led to confusion among the public and many commentators about the meaning of the word. Rather than implying setting in motion a legal process that may or may not conclude wrong-doing has taken place, the word is used assuming guilt and implying that impeachment is the punishment, not the trial, something nearer 'dismissal from office' than its true meaning in law.

In Great Britain conviction on an impeachment has resulted in fine and imprisonment, and even in execution, whereas in the United States and the Philippines the penalties extend no further than removal and disqualification from office.

For the Record. The peach probably originated in China, then spread westward through Asia to the Mediterranean countries and later to other parts of Europe. The Spanish explorers brought the peach to the New World, and as early as 1600 the fruit was found in Mexico. Worldwide, the peach is the third most important of the deciduous-tree fruits, ranking after the apple and the pear.

WORD WATCH

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(PDI – Jan. 7, 2001)

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Directly reporting to Sales and Marketing Director. The candidate should have good people relations skills, excellent presentation skills with experience in training various groups of audience, high level of commitment and motivation.
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Please send your application letter and resumé with references and contact number to:

NUTRITION SUPPLEMENTS
P.O. Box 1846
Makati Central Post Office
1258 Makati City
Attn The Administration & Operations Manager

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL TOBACCO ADMINISTRATION
Scout Reyes Street corner Panay Avenue, Quezon City
☎ 372-32-14 Fax 373-20-90

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID

The **NATIONAL TOBACCO ADMINISTRATION (NTA)**, through its **Pre-qualification, Bids and Awards Committee** (PBAC), invites interested parties to pre-qualify and to bid for the **SECURITY & JANITORIAL SERVICES OF THE NTA BUILDING AND ITS PREMISES**.

The pre-qualification requirements are available for issuance to interested parties on **8 January 2001** at the **General Services and Procurement Division, Administrative Department, 3rd Floor, NTA Building, Scout Reyes Street corner Panay Avenue, Quezon City, Metro Manila**. The deadline for the submission of pre-qualification documents shall be on or before the close of office hours on **12 January 2001**.

Pre-qualified parties shall be notified, thru formal letters, of the date and time of the public bidding. The **Instructions of Bidders and the Bid Forms** will be issued only to qualified bidders upon payment of a non-refundable bidding fee of **ONE THOUSAND PESOS (PhP1,000.00)**.

The NTA reserves the right to reject any or all bids or any part/s, thereof, without offering any reason, waive any defect/s contained in any of the bid/s submitted and/or accept the offer most advantageous to the Agency.

(Sgd.) **JAIME G. SEÑGA**
Chairman, Pre-qualification, Bids and Awards Committee (PBAC)

(PDI – Jan. 7, 2001)

CORVET ASIA

Corvet Asia Philippines, Inc., a multinational service and marketing company with head office in Switzerland, supplying state-of-the-art machineries and consumables to be manufacturing, packaging, and printing industries in Asia is in need of:

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

A) FIELD SERVICE ENGINEER

QUALIFICATIONS:

- BSECE or BSEE graduate
- computer literate, hardware and software
- with knowledge and interest in trouble shooting
- good oral and written communication skills
- can work under pressure with min. supervision
- work experience in field service an advantage

Opportunities for overseas training and domestic travel maybe offered to the right candidate.

B) ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE

QUALIFICATIONS:

- Female, not more than 30 years old
- proficient in oral and written communication
- with pleasing personality, assertive, smart, outgoing, and self motivated
- graduate of any computer related course
- dedicated to pursue a career in sales and marketing
- with at least 2 to 3 years experience in selling IT products

Qualified applicants will be scheduled for interview. Applicants may send or submit their resumé together with transcript of records, recent photo.

CORVET ASIA PHILIPPINES, INC.
3102-A East Tower, PSE Center, Exchange Road, Ortigas Center, Pasig City. Attention: SERVICE MANAGER

NATIONAL INTEGRATED PROTECTED AREAS PROGRAMME
A special project of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources supported by a grant from the European Union

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

General Information

The National Integrated Protected Areas Programme (NIPAP) is a special project of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) co-financed by the Government of the Philippines and the European Union. The 5-year intervention aims at promoting conservation of biodiversity and sustainable use of natural resources through the establishment of Protected Areas within the legal framework of the NIPAS Act. In view of implementing its YR 2001 action plan, the Project intends to recruit the following specialist

Vac. 02/00 - CREATIVE ARTIST

H/she must have at least three years experience in computer lay-out works using Adobe PageMaker, CorelDraw, and other desktop publishing software.

Deadline for application: January 20, 2001

Interested candidates are requested to send a letter of application including, (a) biodata, (b) recent salary history, and (c) full contacts of 3 references to:

The Personnel Officer
National Integrated Protected Areas Programme
P.O. Box 1614 OC CPO
Fax: 02-9280805; E-mail: nipap@mozcom.com

METRO INDEX GARMENTS, INC.

1 MANAGER FOR RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT (Bra Making)
Female; 20 to 30 years old; Industrial Engineering graduate with 5 years

2 HR STAFF
Female; 23 to 30 years old; HRD or Psychology graduate, with 2 years experience

4 MANAGEMENT TRAINEES
Female; 20 to 25 years old; Graduate of any Business course

1 SECRETARY
Female; 25 to 35 years old; Computer Secretarial graduate, with 3 years experience

Interested applicants are requested to send their Cover Letter, Transcript of Records (Except Sewers), Application Form and recent 2x2 colored picture on or before January 31, 2001 to the HRD at #52 Thomas Street, Phase III, Multinational Village, Parañaque or Comfax 829-5075. Tel. No. 829-2663 to 64 local 107.

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is in eed of

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ECO OMIST

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Qualified applicants y send their application letter with resumé t

Pres t V e Asia, Inc.
3rd Floor an s Plaza Building
Gen. Max n enue, Cebu City
6) llippines
or e-mail ov la@mozcom.com

Attn: NURSES

Advance Home Care Company

is currently in need of qualified candidates with the following requirements:

- College Diploma and Transcript of Records
- PRC Certificates
- CGFNS and TOEFL Certificates
- Valid Passport
- 4 pcs. 2x2 colored pictures

*A representative of **Advance Home Care** will be in Manila from **January 16, 2001** to **February 9, 2001** to interview qualified applicants. For additional informations and details, please call **Mr. F. Sunga** at **939-2180**.*

Oxfam

Oxfam GB's purpose is to work with others to overcome poverty and eradicate suffering.

Programme Representative – the Philippine Programme

Based: Metro Manila, the Philippines
Contract: 2 years
Ref: EAR/PR/PHL

Oxfam GB has a long history of promoting sustainable livelihoods amongst vulnerable communities in the Philippines, with recent expansion into education reforms and emergency response. The challenge for the coming two-year period is to consolidate the programme into a more focused set of activities that can contribute to wider policy and practice changes, at both national and international levels and in line with our East Asia regional priorities. In particular, the programme is expected to contribute effectively to Oxfam GB's global campaigns on trade, education and conflict.

To meet this challenge Oxfam GB is looking for a dynamic Programme Representative who has the capacity to lead this experienced team, make strategic programme development choices, and enhance the overall impact of our work in the Philippines. S/he will manage all resources associated with the programme and represent Oxfam and the programme to a variety of bodies and organisations.

Key Competencies:

- Knowledge and understanding of development and relief/humanitarian issues at a global level and insight into their relevance for work in the Philippines and East Asia.
- Proven experience in managing programmes designed to address poverty (strategic and operational), working to specific objectives and plans.
- Experience in developing and managing changes in programme directions and teams, in line with organisational priorities
- Excellent leadership abilities, and experience of developing individuals and teams
- Proven resource management capacity – human, financial, assets in a multi-cultural team and environment
- Demonstrated capacity in the areas of knowledge management, conceptual and analytical thinking, and achieving results
- Excellent inter-personal awareness, and verbal / written communication skills in English
- Proven experience of and commitment to promoting gender equity in all aspects of work.
- Willingness to travel (minimum of 20% of time)

Highly Desirable:

- Experience in managing large scale emergency response programmes
- Specific thematic skills in area of sustainable livelihoods / economics / trade
- Knowledge of local language

Closing date: **7th February 2001**
Interview date: **to be confirmed (only shortlisted candidates will be advised)**

Please submit application letter with complete CV quoting above reference and job title to Wanida Poomtamarat.
Email: eastasiahr@oxfam.org.uk **OR Fax: # 66 2 253 5865**

IPAMS

INDUSTRIAL PERSONNEL AND MANAGEMENT SERVICES, INC.

PERSONALLY APPLY SOONEST FOR INCLUSION IN THE FINAL INTERVIEW ON JANUARY 8 THRU 11, 2001. (ALL HEALTHSTAR CANDIDATES UNDER-PROCESSED MUST ATTEND THE GENERAL MEETING ON JAN.12TH AT 8:00 A.M.)

R.N.'s for the United States

***FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE** to help with the processing will be provided by Healthstar. Free airfare to the U.S.A. and temporary housing is included in the package. Definitely no placement fees in the Phils. or U.S.A.*

CGFNS PASSERS

ONLY R .N.'S WITH EXCELLENT SCHOLASTIC RECORDS AND MINIMUM OF 2 YEARS EXPERIENCE WITH MAJOR HOSPITALS MUST APPLY

HealthStar International Inc., a major staffing company from Houston, Texas will provide contracts from Jan. 8th thru 11th, identifying nurses for its own operations as well as other hospital clients throughout the United States Messrs. Russel Baird and Craig Gwinner of Healthstar will conduct the interview and selections.

Candidates must have excellent scholastic records, as well as hospital exposure.

Today, American hospitals are in serious need of Registered Nurses with experience in a variety of areas of specialization

Remember the days of the last U S Nurse shortage The offers that were too good to be true the jobs that were not there upon arrival, nurses that were taken advantage of upon arrival, poor living conditions and the list goes on and on

Neither *HealthStar* nor IPAMS will participate in such practices We will only represent the best of facilities and we will be concentrating on facilities and hospitals that offer the best opportunities to you, the nurse Successful candidates will be assisted in the securance of the available immigrant working visas

To take advantage of this opportunity, Metro Manila candidates must personally apply asap or no later than January 9, 2001 by submitting comprehensive resume, school records (diploma, transcript of records), board rating, training certificates, employment credentials, plus two (2) passport photographs to:

IPAMS
since 1972
U.S. Immigration consultancy

INDUSTRIAL PERSONNEL AND MANAGEMENT SERVICES, INC.
1455 Leon Guinto Sr. St. 1004
Malate, M.M.,Phils.

IF POSSIBLE, CANDIDATES SHOULD BE TOEFL/ TWE AND TSE PASSERS.
POSSESSION OF A VALID PRC ID AND PASSPORT WILL EXPEDITE PROCESSING.

THE FIRST DEPLOYMENT TO HEALTHSTAR STARTED LAST MAY 2000. MANY CANDIDATES UNDER-PROCESSED, ARE PROGRAMMED TO LEAVE FOR THE U.S.A. ON IMMIGRANT VISA SCHEME STARTING JANUARY 2001.

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"I am the way, the truth and the life.
No one comes to the Father except through me."
John 14:6

CAPT. JOHN TABLANTE MESINA

(RET. PAL PILOT)

Peacefully joined his Creator on January 5, 2001
at the age of 80.

His loving wife **Maring Narciso**; children **Cecile** and **Mike Varela**, **Bobby** and **Dulce**, **Agnes** and **Mike Gonzalez**; grandchildren **Michelle** and **Jaime Lim**, **Margie**, **Mia**, **Melissa**, **Joanna** and **Lou Calugcug**, **Joel**, **Marijo**, **Jenkin**, **Jasmin**, **Jenina**, **Jessica**, **Yvette** and **Giselle**; great grandchildren **Jonathan**, **Julienne**, **Angelo**, **Jamie** and relatives request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at St. Benedict Chapel, St. Benedict School, Alabang Hills, Muntinlupa City. There will be a Mass at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, January 9, 2001 and cremation shall follow.

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rmn news.

The men and women of
RMN NEWS NATIONWIDE
Announce with deep sorrow that our
Program Director of RMN News Kalibo

ROLAND C. URETA

Joined his Creator on January 3, 2001.

His remains lie in state at the family residence at Brgy. Candelaria, New Washington, Aklan.

His loving wife **Emily**; son **Ken-Ken**, relatives, friends and colleagues at RMN News Nationwide request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

Eternal life will swallow up that which can die. God made us for this very reason and He has given us the Spirit as a guarantee that we will live again.
2 Corinthians 5:4-5

Capt. Ruselo "Bong" H. Ylagan PN, GSC (Ret.)

Exec. Dir., Legislative Security Bureau,
House of Representative, Quezon City
Member, Cavite Lodge No. 2, F & AM
of Cavite City & Las Piñas City

Died in the Grace of our Lord on January 5, 2001 at the age of 60.

His bereaved wife **Georgina**; children **Jennifer & Erwin**, **Dennis & Kristine** and **Tristan**; grandchildren **Tintin**, **Karl** and **Nicole**; relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the family residence at 18 Palm Drive, Remarville Subdivision, Pamplona, Las Piñas City.

Cremation will be on Wednesday, January 10, 2001 at the Manila Memorial Park Crematorium, Sucat, Parañaque City.

ENGR. JOSE ESPEJO LAVIN, SR.

Peacefully joined his Creator and his
loving wife ISIDORA (DOLAY)
on January 3, 2001 at the age of 93.

His loving children **Pepito** and **Perling**, **Vicenting** and **Marichu**, **Oscar** and **Ethel**, **Lita** and **Ricky**, **Vickie** and **Felix**, **Mayo** and **Luchi**, **Marissa** and **Bobby**, **Maribel** and **Conrad**; sisters **Nena** and **Bading**; grandchildren, great grandchildren, other relatives and friends request pious readers to pray for his eternal repose.

His remains lie in state at Arlington Memorial Chapels, 12 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be at Eternal Gardens Memorial Park, Baesa, Kalookan City after the 9:00 AM Mass at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, 13th Avenue, Cubao, Wednesday, January 10, 2001.

Our Dearly Beloved

Inocencia M. Abellera

of Bayombong, Nueva Vizcaya and Illinois, USA

Peacefully joined our Lord on December 30, 2000
at the age of 84.

Her children **Eddie** and **Ellen**, **Tony** and **Mila**, **Ernie** and **Marita**, **Nancy** and **Monching**; together with grandchildren, relatives and friends, request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie at Modell Funeral Home, Darien, Illinois, USA.

Interment is on January 6, 2001. Mass at Christ the Servant Parish, Woodridge, Illinois, USA.

Our Loved One

ESMERALDA C. VALDEZ

of Quezon City and Narvacan, Ilocos Sur

Peacefully joined our Lord Jesus Christ on December 23, 2000
in California, USA

Her bereaved husband **Carlos**; children **Cecilia** and **Agnes**; mother **Silvestra**; son-in-law **John**; grandchild **Melanie**; brothers, sisters, relatives and friends request everyone to rejoice with us at her return to our Saviour.

Her remains lie in state at Chapel F, La Funeraria Paz, G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Tuesday, January 9, 2001 at 9:00 a.m. at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina.

MESSAGE OF THANKS

We, the family of the late

MARIA MARCOS SABUNDAYO

who joined her Creator on December 24, 2000

wish to convey our deepest gratitude and appreciation to all those who by way of their presence, prayers, thoughts, flowers, notes of sympathy, and extension of support, showed love and concern, offered solace and comfort and in countless ways, condoled with us in our moment of grief.

Our Dearly Beloved

FELICITO "Peping" GABRIEL

Died in the Grace of our Lord on January 03, 2001
at the age of 56.

His bereaved family, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at the family residence at 6 Gen. Borromeo St., Longos, Malabon, Metro Manila.

Interment will be on January 10, 2001 Wednesday, 1:00 p.m. at the Malabon Catholic Cemetery.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

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COSMOPOLITAN FUNERAL HOMES, INC.
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Residence: #10 Marathon Street
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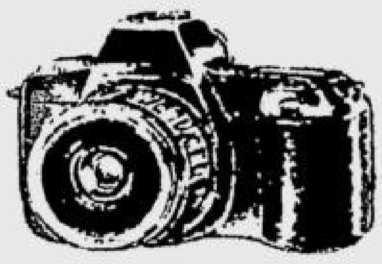

WWF

The Inquirer joins the World Wildlife Fund in the fight to save rare animals. From now on you'll be reading more and learning more about the plight of endangered species. In our crusade to save the world, the only weapon we have is your support.

INQUIRER
News that makes a difference.

Q: How does The Inquirer protect small fry?

PHILIPPINE
INQUIRER
5 cronies found
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in Swiss banks
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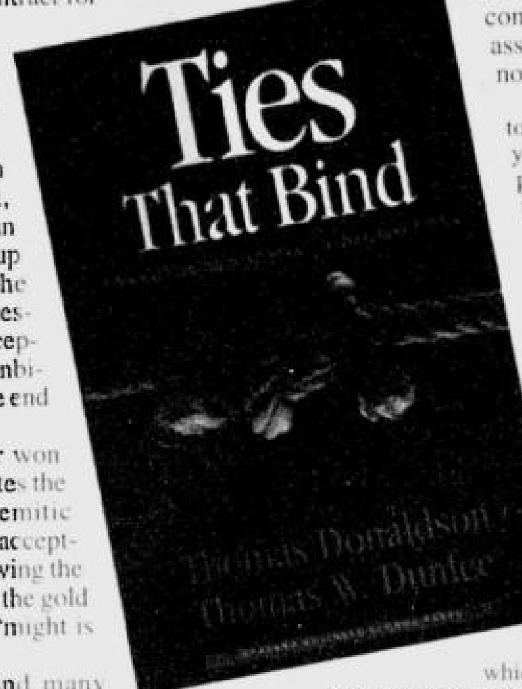
A: We keep an eye on the big fish.

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
News that makes a difference

Ethics: 'One-size-fits-all' or a customized outfit?

By Dante M. Velasco

'Ties That Bind'
Thomas Donaldson & Thomas W. Dunfee
Harvard Business School Press



A MANAGER for an airplane manufacturer is considering a payment of $5 million to go personally to the minister of defense of a developing country to "win" a contract for jetfighters. Does this act of bribery become acceptable in a country that views it as part of " culture"?

One market research firm, hired by a client, falsely projects itself as an independent research group among respondents. The firm said that it was necessary to make use such deception so that it can get "unbiased" responses. Does the end justify the means?

Suppose Adolf Hitler won the war and now dominates the world. Will his anti-Semitic policy now become an acceptable social practice following the principle that he who has the gold (or gun) rules and that "might is right"?

These questions—and many more—are dealt with by this book, "Ties that Bind" subtitled "A Social Contracts Approach to Business Ethics." Authorship of this tour de force study is shared by two faculty members of The Wharton School: Donaldson, legal studies professor and director of the Wharton Ethics Program at The Wharton School and Dunfee, social responsibility professor and director of the Zicklin Center for Business Ethics Research.

Their academic background and professional development explain the depth of scholarship and their intellectual and philosophical range—assuring the reader of a virtual walk-through into schools of thought in ethics as applied to religious, social, political and economic fields.

Handled by less enlightened minds, business ethics could take one of two forms:

One, it could be a set of dogmas or immutable principles that should universally apply to business—never mind if they are irrelevant or unworkable. Two, ethics could be a set of shifting codes of conduct or tentative agreements that spring from situational ethics or from a group consensus, never mind if it assaults universally accepted norms.

Apply these ethical issues to the world of business, and you are inevitably led to a passionate debate on what is right and what is wrong—in the light of "business realities." Discuss the ethical questions faced by global firms operating in different environments, and you get arguments as "when in Rome, do as the Romans do."

"Corporate leaders face ethical dilemmas everywhere, but nowhere is their challenge greater than on the global stage," the authors point out. They cite the case of a global oil firm which earned the ire of the people of one African nation simply because it remained silent over the execution of a noted environmental activist.

Should it take a stand on human rights issues? Shall it use its leverage on host governments to promote the ends of justice? In the past, these global firms were called names because they threw their weight around.

Beyond many business ethical dilemmas that are abundant in this book, this piece of work actually "takes the bull by the horns," because it confronts the tension between "empirical" and "normative" ethics.

The former is a matter of group agreement, the latter a matter of universally accepted principles. Said plainly, an act becomes right or wrong either when

ETHICS/ B2

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Sunday LIFESTYLE
CHELO BANAL-FORMOSO, Editor

Which is the only A+ formula?
ASK YOUR PEDIATRICIAN TODAY.
MeadJohnson Nutritionals

Harry Potter
AND THE SORCERER'S STONE
J.K. ROWLING

A boy named Harry . . .

For a change, a book became a hit among the boys. Harry Potter, the bespectacled young boy who won the hearts of children from 7 to 12, fought gremlins, witches, warlocks and their kin. His adventures took four volumes and so hot was Harry that on the day of Book 4's release, people across the United States lined up in bookstores for hours on end just to get a precious copy. Amazon.com, the online book retailer, had 37 Federal Express trucks filled with Harry Potter Book 4, "Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire," ready for delivery on its release date. British author J.K. Rowling has already written the conclusion to the projected seven-part series although Book 5 is not expected to be released until 2002. The much-awaited film "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone," currently being filmed in the UK, is expected to hit theaters in November this year. Expect your kids to be hit by a second wave of Pottermania by then.

WOMEN MARCH: ESTRADA RESIGN NOW

Super women

Women activists once again found themselves at the forefront. Now more than ever, women have admirably managed the balancing acts between home and streets, between family and causes, between what is right and what is wrong.

In 2000, women took to the streets in protest more often than the previous years.

Remember these . . . ?

Lifestyle reviewed the year that was and came up with what's memorable

Family affairs

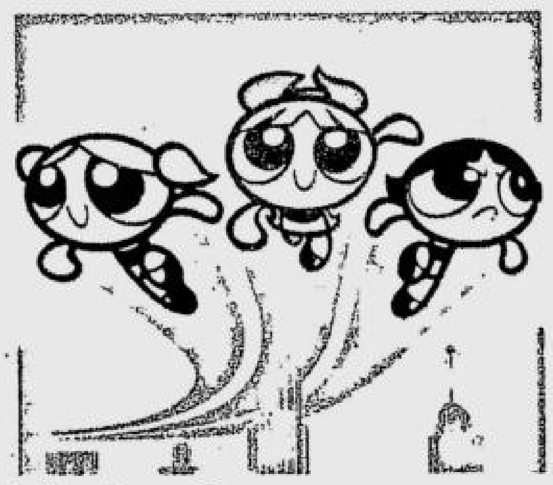
By Cathy Babao Guballa

MARKED by a multitude of crises that touched all aspects of life, the year 2000 gave families time for creativity and bonding. Lower purchasing power made parents and kids think of more affordable ways and means to entertain themselves at home. People became more vigilant in pursuing the best buys. Owing to the wider availability of mobile phones and certain trends like Tamiya and crafts, families were given more opportunities to communicate and bond.

BROCKEN
GIGA
BLACK SPE

It's a guy thing

For boys, and their fathers, Tamiya and its 101 clones were the big thing in 2000. From the cheaper version that went three for P100 to the pricey P300 per car, Tamiya translated into father-son bonding time as fathers and sons spent hours and hours crouched over these cars, building and rebuilding them to make them the "coolest and fastest car on the track." Tamiya racecourses mushroomed all over the country—in malls, supermarkets, department stores from Luzon to Mindanao. The Tamiya toolbox became the accessory to lug for boys 5 to 15.



The three Bs

Powerpuff girls, the adorable trio of Bubbles, Blossom and Buttercup became every little girl's ideal as they tried to "save the world before bedtime" doing battle with the goons in their city. From shirts to pillows, the belles of Cartoon Network proved their drawing power.

Addictions of the techno kind

Personal computers and network gaming grew in popularity. Every community or barangay in the metropolis has now at least one gaming center where teeners flock to during their spare time. Going solo or coming in groups of three and four, the thrill here is clearly in the conquest as they think up strategies to win the game.

More homes had Internet capabilities, a plus for doing research, downloading music, shopping online, bidding online (there are now several local auction houses, surfing bananas being the most popular and reliable so far).

The downside? Young people had access to pornographic material that proliferated on the Web. A valedictory essay credited to an eminent writer was circulated via e-mail and turned out to be a hoax. Also demolition jobs on certain personalities.

REMEMBER/ p.C2

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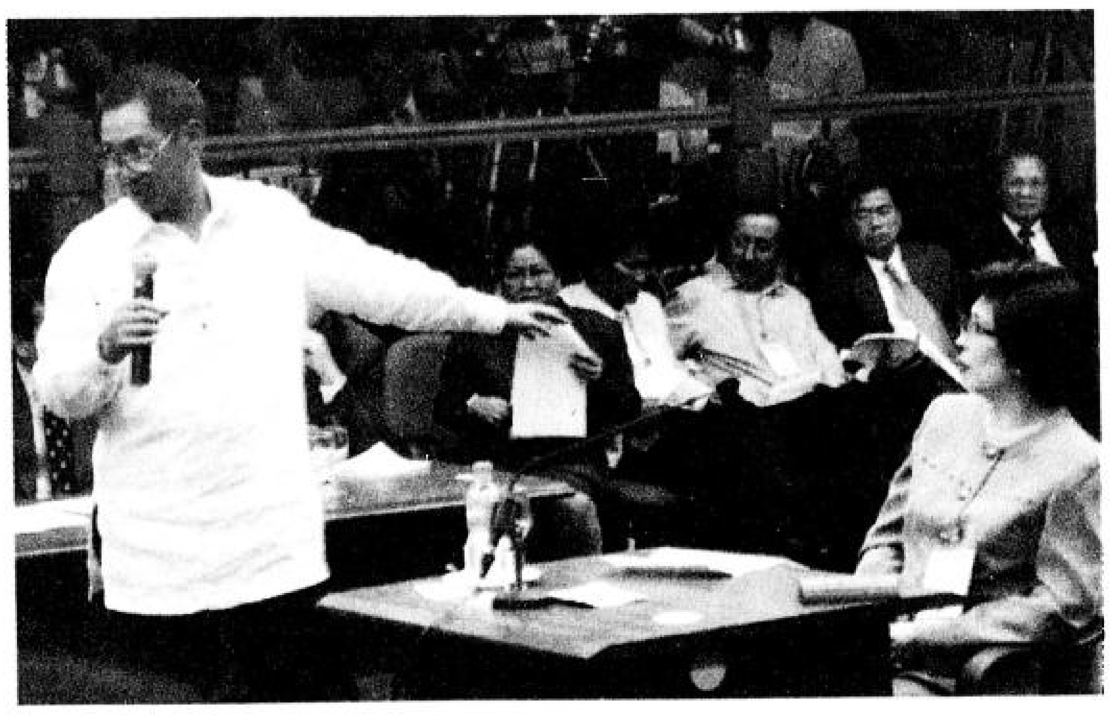
CITIBANK

Cellmates

Would you have thought back when pagers were hot that mobile phones would take over the new millennium? Globe and Smart, the top telecom companies, sent out all kinds of words to this corner of world—WAP, ZED, etc. and formed cliques and clubs of their own—Globe's GenText for one. In spite of the hard times, selling cellular phones is a lucrative business—in *tiangges*, malls and department stores. Just take at a look at the cellular phone arcade in the Greenhills *tiangge* and you'll see what we mean. Selling every imaginable kind of gadget to enhance one's phone—cell cards, covers, microphones, hands-free sets, cellular phone rests and any other accessory you could possibly think of.

Communication between family members became more instantaneous. The cell phone became a necessity, whether for kids as young as 8 or eightysomething grandmas.

That's not all. From Day 1of the Senate Blue Ribbon and the impeachment hearings on the *jueteng* scandal, cell phones took the starring roles.



Glued to TV

If the impeachment hearing was not the highest rating show of the year 2000, it was at least the most engrossing. Regular programs were preempted. People who missed the afternoon live telecast watched the replay when they got home.

Remember these . . . ?

(From page C1)

Every little bit helped

The "economy pack" and promotional schemes were a big hit in year 2000 and will continue to do so. Supermarkets, especially the really huge ones such as Makro, Big R and Shopwise became popular. Convenience, competitive prices and a wide array of choices were prime considerations.

Appeal to women

Advertisements, apparently, the most popular ad of the year goes to the "*wais na misis*" who captured the imagination and hearts of many housewives, cutting across classes A, B, C and D.

More laundry places—Mr. Wash, Lavandera Ko, Metropole, Baywash have sprouted in practically every corner. Women no longer feared sending Inday on an extended vacation as the ever reliable self-service laundry was just a whistle away.

E-mail the author at cbguballa@inquirer.com.ph

Minimalist by necessity

By Alex Y. Vergara

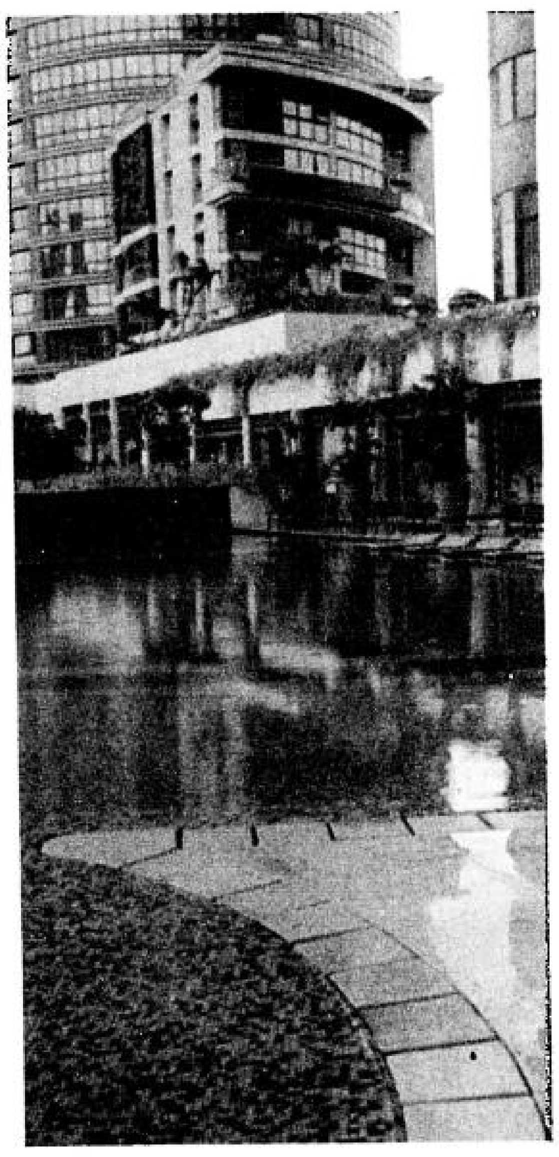
WHETHER in good times or in bad, turning a house into a home is no joke. This, however, didn't stop cash-strapped Filipinos from living in style as the year 2000 ended on a dismal note.

As far as the home scene went, says leading interior designer and fashion icon Tessa Prieto-Valdes, two basic elements set trends and altered lifestyles last year: economics (but, of course) and the availability of a wider range of choices and materials at reasonable, if not, cheaper prices.

This trend, Valdes continues, spawned more minimalist trends best seen in the details.

All kinds of nuances

Fusion became the in thing as homes exuded with Asian, European and even African nuances. (Remember Merryl Streep sans the heavy padded furniture and animal rugs in "Out of Africa?") The latter is best seen in the use of stone, dark wood or veneer-lined walls.

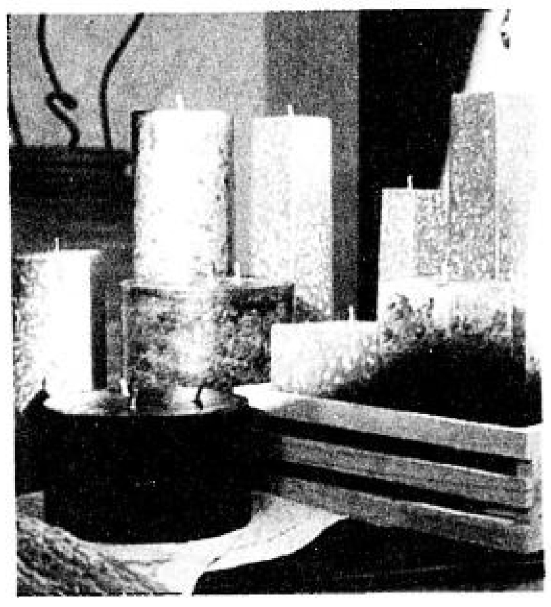


Compact was chic

In their attempts to downsize, moving into a condo unit—think Rockwell, folks—became the height of chic as more Filipinos discovered the joys of "satellite" living. As a result, more people began snapping up smaller but functional furniture pieces with cleaner lines.

Space savers such as plastic barstools, folding tables and storage cabinets on wheels were hits, especially among yuppies.

In their attempt to maximize every available space, condo dwellers favored compact furniture pieces over long and heavy ones. Thus, loveseats—not necessarily inspired by those supposedly found in you-know-who's mansion called "Boracay"—and sectional sofas became de rigueur.



Candle power

Every (well, almost) home had one. Call it an apt symbol of the times, but cheap, scented candles in earth colors burned brightly as last year's accessory of choice.

Otherwise, lighting options became dimmer or brighter, depending on one's needs. Fluorescent and halogen lighting systems from Taiwan to Texas (okay, US) now come in more varied styles, colors and sizes.

Value for money

Wood-like sandstone flooring was also in. In lieu of polished granite, porous and a combination of wood and stainless steel materials were in. Bronze and shades of gold—which has started to make a comeback in the jewelry scene—became mere accents.

Leather or teakwood

Upholstered furniture pieces were either covered in leather or dark fabrics in deep reds and blues. These bold pieces contrasted well with white and cream-colored walls.

Furniture pieces made of teakwood from Thailand and Indonesia also made an impact last year.

No to Persian, yes to Moroccan

The Persian rug with its dizzying pattern had to go in favor of its Moroccan counterpart in loud, solid colors. The *sisal* or hemp rug was also a hit.

Impy Pilapil over Lladro

Stoneware and accent pieces made either of glass or crystal were in.

Clearing the air

Perhaps, in a futile attempt to ward off the cities' worsening air pollution, more families had split-type air conditioners installed in their homes. Bulky and unsightly window-type varieties continued to lose their appeal since the sleeker split-type air con became more affordable. Families also snapped up ionizers or air purifiers in record numbers. Ever heard of the nebulizer? Medical equipment companies sold those in portable models, too.

E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph

Modular was mod

Due to competitive pricing, modular kitchen cabinets became more salable than those built by the friendly, neighborhood carpenter. Might as well since once-pricey European brands are now priced only 20-30 percent higher than custom-built varieties. Spiraling labor cost certainly has a lot to do with it.

NINAKAW SA PERA NG BAYAN!
ANG BARAO
OUST
ERAP
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If she has one, I want one, too

Home scene 2000 will also long be remembered for colossal mansions, white sand-lined swimming pools and wave machines paid for by the people's money to house favored mistresses. Splattered *bagoong* on the gates was optional.

Swinging back and forth

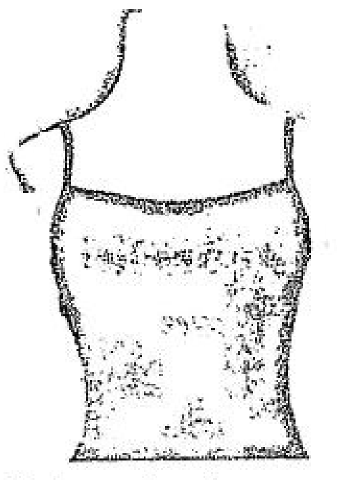
By Rowena C. Burgos

WHILE recession has been troubling almost everyone in the fashion business, last year's haute couture came to prove that, however outrageously costly, glamour and class would always count.

Elegance, neat tailoring and the slim, sensual figure dominated the scene last year. For day, the general mood was feminine, with simple, clean cuts and the passionate allure of red.

But at night, couture became dazzling and gave designers the chance to make full use of their imagination and of the finest fabrics.

If you think of fashion as not just moving forward but also swinging back and forth like a pendulum, you will see that fashion is an ever-evolving work in progress. Study its back-and-forth movement and you can see where we are inevitably headed.



Spaghetti in the closet

The big thing among young girls were spaghetti straps and tube tops, with matching clear plastic bra straps that sold and still sell by the thousands each month at Anonymous stores. Baggy pants went nicely with barely-there tops. Silver jewelry and clips continued to be a staple in every young girl's accessory treasure trove. Bandannas were briefly in.

Color wheel

The Year of the Dragon saw the revival of vibrant colors, as in red, fuchsia, orange and aqua blue. Such millennium hues provided the dazzling effect haute couture enthusiasts anticipated.

Soap glitter

The first half of the year 2000 was all about reacting to the grotesque excesses of the '80s. Remember all that glitter and glitz, the desire to dress like a character out of "Dynasty" or "Dallas"? That certainly took some getting over.

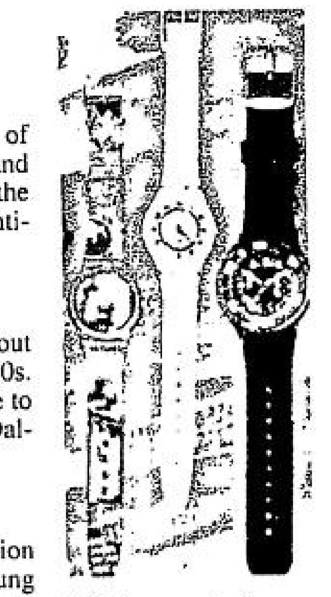
Looking scruffy

Then came grunge, an expressly anti-fashion credo. Adults may have loathed it but young people the world over embraced the flannel shirts, woolly hats, cargo pants, baggy jeans and scruffy T-shirts that constituted the basic look.

His, hers and baby's

If Bench seems to be sitting pretty in its niche in the retail fashion industry, it's because this year the company made some really big-impact moves. Remember the gorgeous men who paraded in their underwear? That was Bench. Then came Human, with its hip and hot ads and equally hip and hot goods. Bench also gave the women their own store, and added baby clothes to its lines.

E-mail the author at rburgos@inquirer.com.ph



This watch for yours

Watches, if they are good, last forever but factor in boredom and there you go—there's the secret of Swatch's success in the year 2000. Swatch came up with the trade-your-old-Swatch-for-new that brought in the crowds. Plus how could we have said no to DDG Troy Montero?

Coffee, tea or red wine

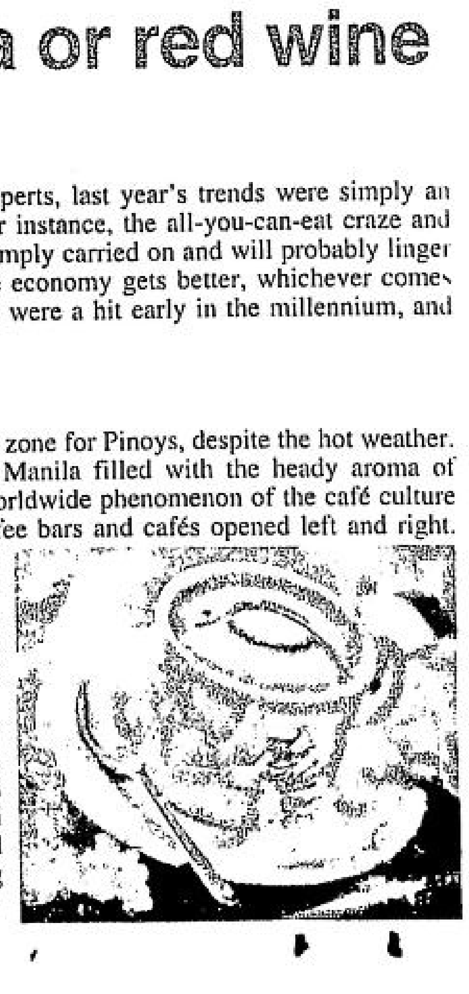
By Vangie Baga-Reyes

ACCORDING to food experts, last year's trends were simply an extension of 1999's. For instance, the all-you-can-eat craze and budget-friendly meals simply carried on and will probably linger till kingdom come or when the economy gets better, whichever comes first. Value-for-money promos were a hit early in the millennium, and here are the others.

Over a cup of . . .

Coffee is certainly a comfort zone for Pinoys, despite the hot weather. The bustling streets of Metro Manila filled with the heady aroma of freshly brewed coffee as the worldwide phenomenon of the café culture gripped the city. Specialty coffee bars and cafés opened left and right. Brewed coffee became fashionable again. New blends and brews drew crowds back. Cappuccino, café latte, cafe mocha and espresso were welcomed to the lingo.

Tea also invaded the daily drinking habits of the people. Year 2000 saw the potential and perfection of this traditional drink. Thanks to Brews and Browns and Struan and Tang



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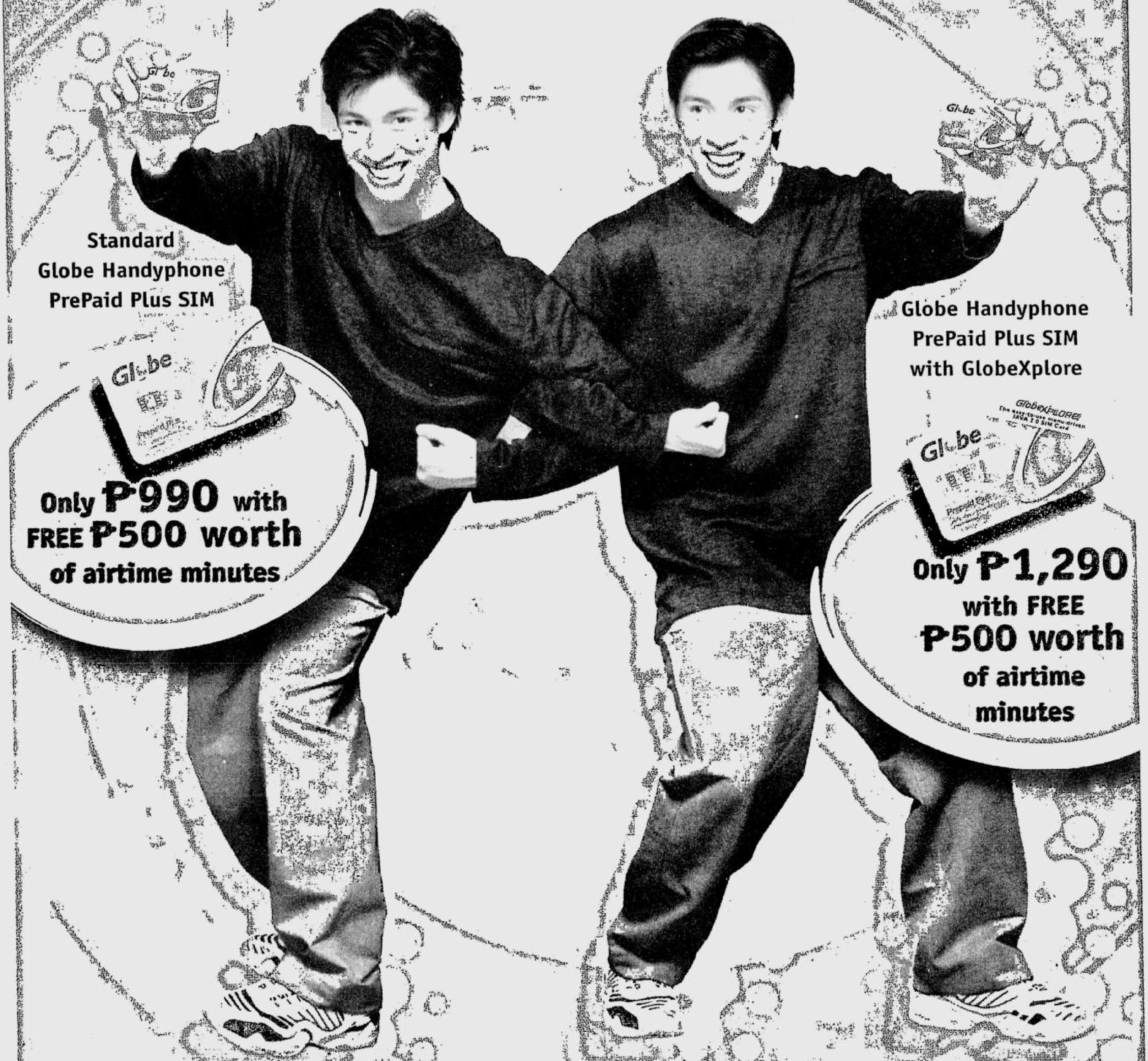

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JOLLIBEE REMAINS ASIA'S MOST ADMIRED COMPANY

FILIPINO fastfood giant Jollibee Foods Corporation has been voted the Philippines' best and one of Asia's Most Admired Companies (AMAC) for the year 2000. The honor came after prestigious business magazines Far Eastern Economic Review (FEER) and Asian Business Magazine released the results of their independent surveys recently.

Asian Business ranked Jollibee most admired in the Philippines and third overall in Asia behind multinationals General Electric and Microsoft. It also named the company as first in terms of contributions to society and growth potentials.

FEER's Review 2000 also ranked Jollibee as number one in the Philippines, besting other prominent organizations such as ABS-CBN and Ayala Corporation. Jollibee has held the top slot for the third consecutive year now.

Aside from outstanding overall performance, the Review 2000 also named Jollibee as the number one company in terms of responsiveness to customer needs and the top company that others try to emulate. It also gave the company very high ratings in other business attributes like high quality of products and services, long term vision of management and financial soundness.

The AMAC and Review 2000 polls are considered hallmarks in business, as the respondents are top Asian business executives selected at random from the two magazines' database.

The AMAC survey covers 180 regional and multinational companies in 10 major industry sector as a result of the Asian financial crisis.

Respondents were asked to rate each company (on a scale of 1 to 10) in terms of overall admiration, then separately in terms of six business attributes (on a scale of 1 to 5); quality of products/services, growth potential, honesty and ethics, contribution to society and online-internet strategy.

In the Review 2000, respondents were asked to rank more than 500 companies on overall corporate leadership, as well as in 5 attributes namely high products and services, innovation, long term vision of management, financial soundness and worthiness of emulation.

JOLLIBEE SHELL SOUTH LUZON — a must-stop for South Travelers

Southern Luzon — the region where such scenic places like Taal Volcano, Matabungkay Beach, Anilao dive camps and Laguna de Bay can be found, is a must-see for anyone looking for the perfect nature retreat. But before embarking on that journey, why don't you stop over at fastfood leader Jollibee Foods Corporation's flagship store at the Shell South Luzon Tollway Plaza?

Jollibee Shell South Luzon, which has a design concept that revolves around fun, fiesta and a family atmosphere, was created with travelers and motorists in mind. The two-story, 926-square meter store also gives some 395 diners comfortable seating and a choice between indoor and outdoor dining. It also has 24-hour drive-thru for the convenience of motorists. Moreover, it is the only Jollibee store that has a veranda that offers you a panoramic view of Laguna de Bay.

Recently, Jollibee held the formal opening of its new store in conjunction with Shell Tollway Plaza's inauguration. Top executives including Jollibee EVP Ernesto Tan Mantiong, VP for real estate William Tan Untiong and South Luzon regional business unit head, Yay Reventar led the ribbon cutting ceremonies.

"We are very excited with the opening of our flagship store," said Reventar. "Jollibee's commitment towards moving in a bolder and more dynamic direction is demonstrated via this store's high tech facilities like the clean and electronic-senior restrooms."

Likewise, the interior and exterior design — with lots of curves

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and angles, toned down the Jollibee colors of yellow, red-orange and blue, the use of glass panels for natural lighting and space frame canopy designs — accentuate the contemporary and high-tech thrust of the store.

Amidst the new touches, however, the same delicious yet highly affordable food and friendly service are present at Jollibee Shell SLT. "The store operates from 5 am to 12 midnight and drive-thru is open for 24 hours," said Rose Ong. "During those times, the managers and crew alike work hard to meet and even exceed the expectations of our customers."

During the store's formal inauguration and blessing, Shell basketball players dropped by to experience the new ambience and get their fill of *langhap-sarap* food. Adding to the excitement was the appearance of the Jollibee mascot who gave away balloons to kid customers.

For customers who are in a hurry, there are seven cash register terminals which help eliminate long lines. The same fast service is ensured with Jollibee SLT's three-window drive-thru. The first window is for giving orders, the second is for paying and the third is where customers get their food.

So make your journey down South more memorable by stopping over at Jollibee-SLT. It's a unique fastfood dining experience with a modern and high tech twist.

100 KIDS JOIN AGA AND JOLLIBEE IN GIFT-GIVING BASH

It was every child's Christmas dream come true: *langhap-sarap* food, games, prizes, gifts and amusement rides galore. Fastfood leader Jollibee Foods Corporation and celebrity endorser-actor Aga Muhlach once again turned this dream into reality for 100 kids from various institutions as they held the sixth "*MaAga ang Pasko*" Christmas bash for the year 2000.

Kids from *Nayon ng Kabataan*, *Ahon Kabataan* and Reception Study Center arrived together with their guardians at the Dreamscape Amusement Center, Robinsons Galleria where the Christmas bash was held. The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) referred these institutions for Aga and Jollibee's latest "*MaAga ang Pasko.*"

Fun games were then conducted to kick off the party. Exciting prizes were handed out and party host "*Tito Aga*" was there to share in the merrymaking. Aga was fresh from a European stint but made sure he had time to come home and be with the kids for his brainchild project. It was his first public appearance after a series of engagements abroad.

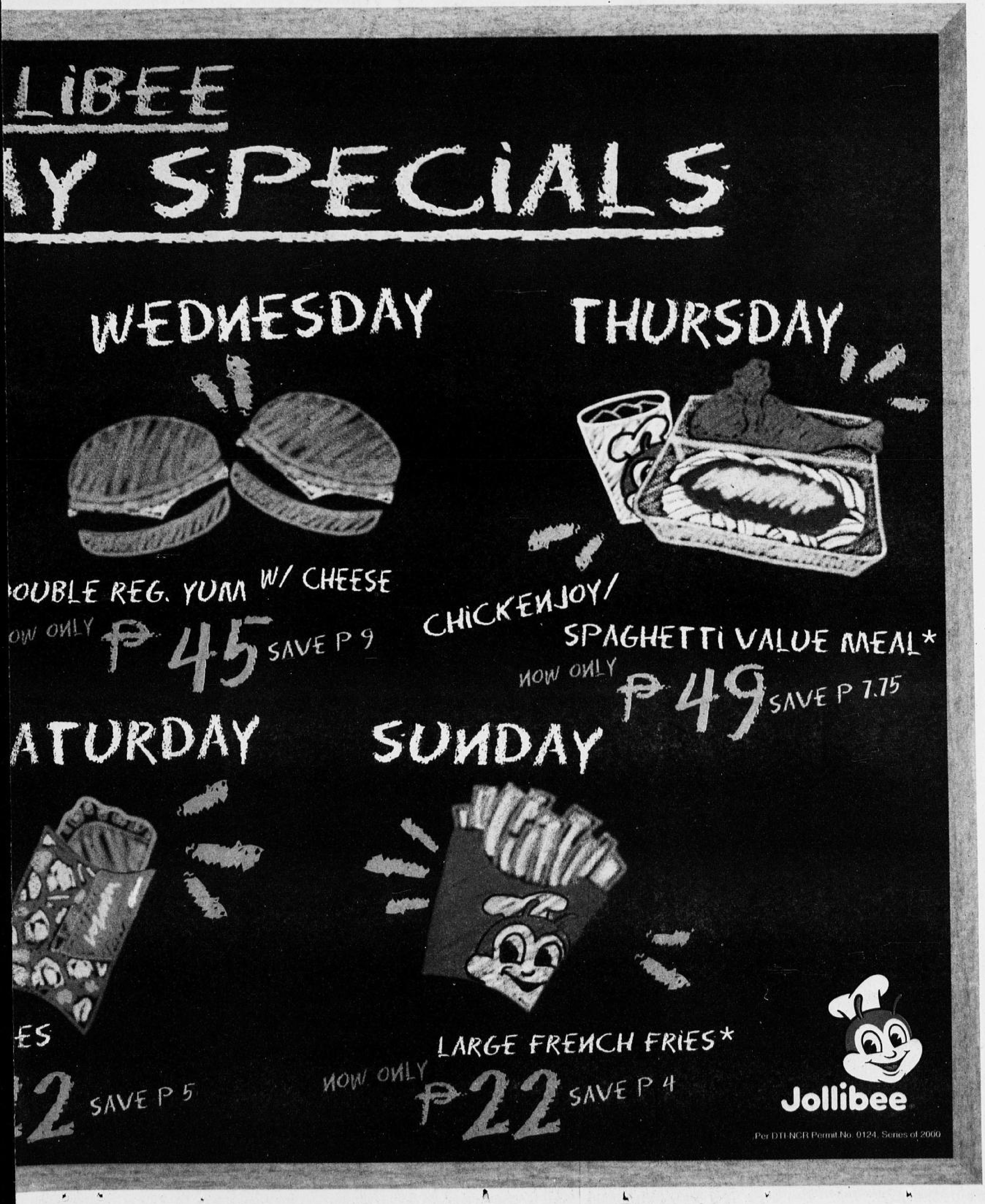
After the games, the program, hosted by Flexi Sarte of *Chikiting Patrol*, opened with a special dance number by the Jollibee mascots. To the delight of both kids and adults, Flexi likewise obliged them with a song number. The highlight of the program was a special dance number from the kids at *Ahon Kabataan*.

When gift-giving time came, Jollibee and Aga gave out gifts to the long line of excited kids. Some children who were unable to keep their excitement, unwrapped their gifts immediately after receiving it.

The special day did not end there, however, as Jollibee's *langhap sarap* food was served and everybody had their fill of Chickenjoy, spaghetti and vanilla twirl.

Capping the 6th "*MaAga ang Pasko*" celebration were the fun rides. Aga and Jollibee took the kids on such fun-filled rides like the bump cars, roller coaster and merry-go-round. Meanwhile, other kids played arcade games while some grooved to the music of Dance Revolution.

"*MaAga ang Pasko*" which was launched in 1995, was initiated by Aga Muhlach who used to celebrate his birthday by asking his friends to donate toys in lieu of his birthday present. He donated these to charitable institutions. To benefit more children and give the program wider coverage, he teamed up with Jollibee and "*MaAga ang Pasko sa* Jollibee" was born. For the past 6 years, the toy and now toy and book drive has benefited thousands of less fortunate children from over 200 institutions nationwide.



PRICELESS PAIR. Rafael Buenaventura and Marivic Rufino

KATRINA Ojeda and Martin Nievera after the countdown at the NBC Tent

SVELTE and sexy Marivic Vasquez with Philip Tuason

NEW Year's first couple Francis and Mary Ann Lumen

RAVING about ruffles is Mandy de la Rama-Santos with hubby Duane Santos

Count your blessings

TEXT AND PHOTOS BY TIM YAP

THE NEW Year's Eve scenes reminded me of the film "Meet Joe Black." In the movie, Anthony Hopkins celebrated his 60th birthday with pomp and glamor. It was a black-tie affair held in a garden. The well-heeled crowd watched the pyrotechnics in the sky.

Last Sunday, in the financial district, colorful balloons covered the Pen ballroom. At Fort Bonifacio, a gigantic stage was set against a backdrop of giant tent and fanciful fireworks display.

The city's revelers donned their holiday best. For some this meant tuxedoes and evening gowns. For some, it was simple shirt tucked in denim jeans.

Party chambers

I did the same thing as I did last year, played style stalker to the city's savvy set, literally jumping from one holiday event to the other. From the themed pre-Christmas party at Beluga Bar to the post New Year's shindigs at El Cirkulo, Il Ponticello, Stars, Venezia and Giraffe—these pages show the photos of those that caught my eye.

Most of metropolis' style set chose to arrive in pulsating colors—gold, red, green—as they paraded from their chauffeur-driven cars into the confines of the air-conditioned Yuletide party chambers of their choice.

The Peninsula Manila and the NBC Tent served sumptuous international buffets that spanned from here to eternity—with cheeses and roasted meats, fondue, caviar and champagne overflowing from the bar.

Accompanied by a tails-clad orchestra, master balladeer Martin Nievera and songbird Bituin Escalante serenaded the partyphiles at the NBC Tent. The show was a musical journey spanning from the '40s to the present.

By midnight, Martin led the televised countdown as the crowd eagerly awaited the much-publicized "synchronized fireworks display." I heard that the fireworks were set up by the same person who handled those of the Hong Kong handover.

Synchronicity

Then it began—for about 20 minutes, the whole crowd that was gathered outside The Fort was mesmerized, mouths agape as the explosion of colors danced to the music that appeared as if it were coming from the heavens.

For one moment, it seemed like all the problems that the nation was facing were suddenly eclipsed by this luminosity. Cheers and applause greeted the first few minutes of the New Year, as partygoers hopped from one function to the next.

Kudos to financial genius Manny Pangilinan, who reportedly footed the bill with his personal funds just so the celebration would push through with the same amount of grandiosity that they had planned.

A sight that I could not forget though were the soldiers that I saw marching outside the party halls as if to guard the people from possible harm. It was, after all, the day after the bombings had erupted.

Cloudy expressions

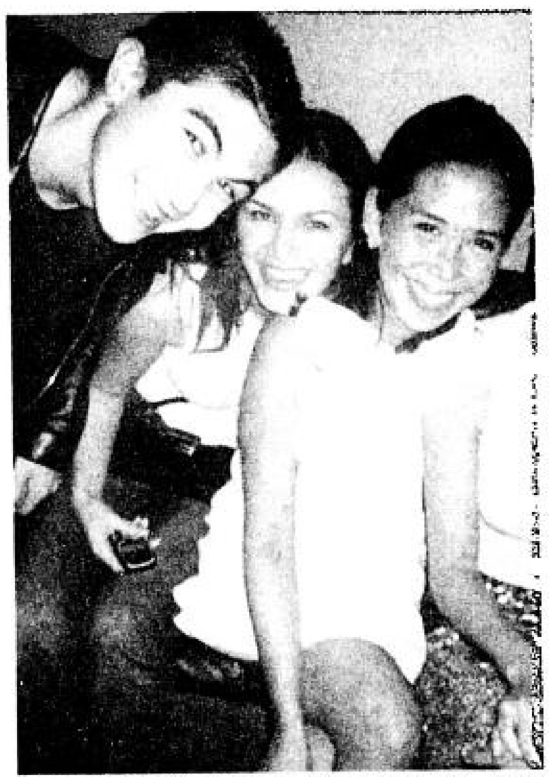
At the Pen, it was old school rock 'n' roll. The dance floor had swing tunes emanating from the band situated at the balcony. The sound system was a bit bad, but the décor looked festive.

After the usual "Hi, hello, darling, I love your outfit..." small talk of the guests, they would sit at their tables, trying their best to smile, down their champagne and forget their worries.

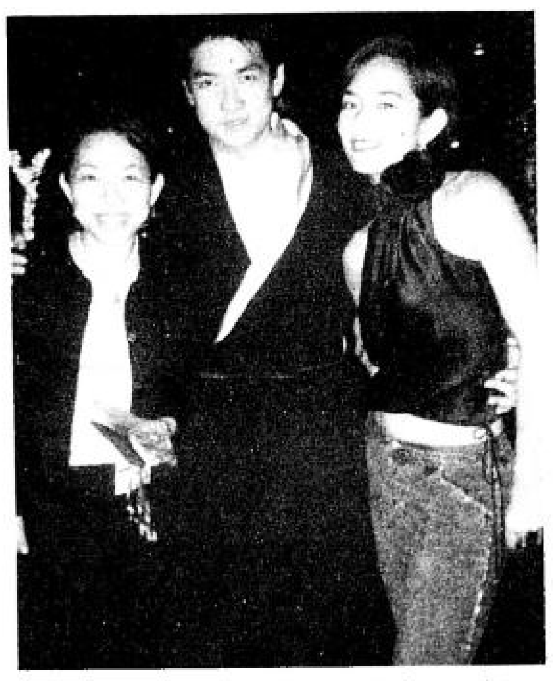
Despite the glare of diamonds and sequins that bedecked society's crispest upper crust, the almost cloudy expressions on the roughed and perfumed faces of the revelers could not be ignored.

Outside The Fort, I saw a family observing the festivities by setting up a fancy table at the back of their pick-up jeep, while the father served white wine to his wife and their daughter stared at the sky, wide-eyed with amazement at the fireworks. They seemed happy.

New Year is, indeed, a time to count our blessings.


TANTALIZING TRIO. Lucky Manzano, Lana Asanin and Rose Anne de Pampelonne in Gucci

SMILES for a brighter New Year from Alex and Marixi Prieto


SYNCHRONICITY. Tim Yap with Carpo sisters Chesca and Leica

GENTLEMEN'S QUARTERS. Pepito Albert, Mike Sandoval, Tonichi Nocom, Randy Ortiz and Robby Carmona

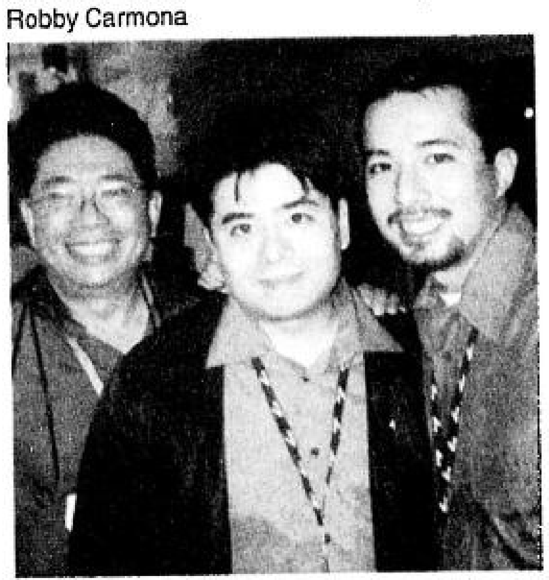
ANONYMOUS style from Ricco and Tina Maristela-Ocampo with Emilio, Juliana, Selina and Bettina

ALL IN THE FAMILY. Philip and Patricia Cu-Unjieng and kids Mateo and Quintin

GOLD-FASHIONED. Captivating couple Lulu Tan Gan and hubby Josef Gueta

BACCHANALIAN year for newlyweds Honey and David Almendral

RED AND BLACK. Patrick Reyno and Wendy Puyat


RATED R. Charlie, JV and Raymond Rufino

ALSO SEEN. Marching to a different holiday beat.

HAPPY TOGETHER. Aleth Mapa, Ron Chan, Marni Ocampo and Reimon Gutierrez

AIN'T LIFE GRAND? The Ablaza family—Jofe Syquia and wife Czarina, Mellie and Marc—celebrating the first day of 2001 together.

STYLE setter Doody Tuason exudes timeless elegance.

PARIS CHIC. Bianca Delgado

[illegible] Prieto in shimmering olive

Remember these ...?

(From page C2)

Tea Salon, to name two, tea's popularity grew rapidly. We've seen all kind of tea drinks flavored with fruit juices, herbal blends and cocktails. They come from popular tea-producing countries, such as Sri Lanka, India, China and Japan.

Pearl shake craze

The last quarter of 2000 saw the transformation of the lowly street drink *sago* into a franchisable craze. Zagu, Orbitz, Shagoo, Quickly and what-have-you, with as many flavors as there were crooks in Congress.

Bolder interiors

We also noticed that most restaurants' interiors used more dramatic colors or contrasting colors to create an "urban living" ambience. Unusual patterns and designs, with lots of wood and stone panels, aroused the curiosity of customers. So did the functional, modern designs of such places as Kitchen and Henry's Bar.

Flavor of the year

Buco pandan! This refreshing flavor was in ice cream, fruit shakes, candies, syrup, cake, jellies and jam.

Pasta was out; rice was in

Year 2000 saw the versatility of rice—rice as sweet pudding and risotto. Pasta simply became a regular staple with nothing much to offer. (Mina Gabor opened a resto, The Island Garden,' which serves 50 different varieties of rice. And what about all the places that serve *paella*!)

More publications

Doreen Fernandez's "Palayok" and the little cookbooks of chefs Dorothy Ferreria, Gene Gonzalez, Sandy Daza and Glenda Barretto continued to be the best book buy. Add Nina Daza Puyat and Ginny Roces de Guzman's book "The Philippine Cook Book."

Home meal replacements

Microwavable food products continued to flourish. HMR food packs ready to heat in the oven or microwave included *kare-kare, adobong manok, laing, callos, pinakbet, kalderetang baka* and *sugpo sa gata*. With these foods-to-go, you could already plan a buffet party out of it. In addition, ready mixes remain a hit among housewives of the new millennium. They preferred ready-to-mix curry, *sinigang, adobo*, chopsuey and *afritada*.

Breakfast offering

More restaurants offered breakfast and after-dinner meal. People were eating out of their homes as early as their first meal. So, restaurants offered breakfast meals, not only for joggers, but for businessmen and office workers who needed to get a quick chow before working.

Cooking classes

Every week, cooking or baking classes were held. To name a few credible places, Bon Appetit at Shangri-La Plaza Mall and Center for Culinary Arts on Katipunan Avenue attracted eager students. Hotels and other food companies also conducted their own cooking lessons. Private cooking class also became a trend offered by notable chefs Reggie Aspiras (in photo), Beth Katipunan, Gene Gonzales and cake specialist Heny Sison. They taught gourmet dishes to restaurant and bakeshop owners, housewives and businessmen.

New breed of chefs

Younger chefs grabbed the food limelight in 2000. To name some, chefs Melissa Sison, Ana Moreno, Fernando Aracama (in photo) and the youthful chefs of Tequila Joe, Stars, etc. Actually, some of them are not merely chefs but also owners of big restaurants.

Snack discovery

The never-ending wasabi flavors that included wasabi candies (available at Aji Ichiban), wasabi-flavored chips, wasabi-laced burger (Hotshots) and wasabi peanuts (Anonymous). Hmmm.

Fusion cooking

It was the come-on of many a restaurant in the land. East met west, south and west or Tex-Mex. Sometimes, you didn't know which was which!

E-mail author at vbaga@inquirer. com.ph

Healthy chow

The catchwords were health and organically produced. Healthy eating was taken more seriously in 2000. So was healthy drinking, as in a glass of red wine a day. The trend was to really look, feel and be fit from head to toe. People ate less and less red meat and turned to veggies. For the guilt-challenged, there were more guilt-free desserts ranging from fat-free to sugar-free and cholesterol-free. There was also egg-free dessert.

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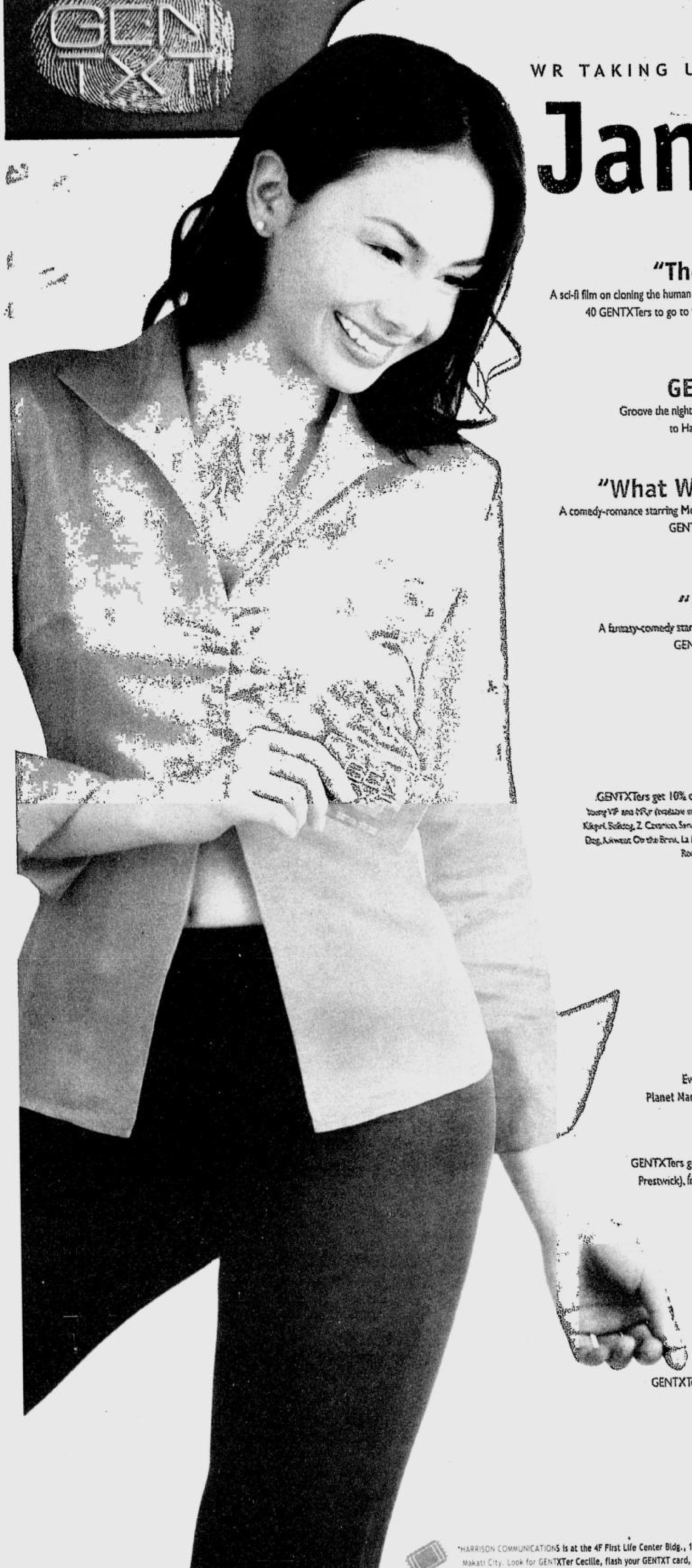

WR TAKING UR KIND OF FUN 2D GENTXT LEVEL

January Gig Guide

"The Sixth Day", Advanced Screening 02

A sci-fi film on cloning the human race starring **Arnold Schwarzenegger**. Be one of the first lucky 40 GENTXTers to go to the GENTXT Booth at Glorietta (near Burger King) and Greenbelt starting December 27.

>> Greenhills Theater - 7:30 PM

GENTXT Crossover Live Party 18

Groove the night away in this spirited party. Be one of the first 15 GENTXTers to go to Harrison Communications* to get a pair of tickets starting January 13

>> Chef & Brewer, Ortigas - 9:00 PM

"What Women Want", Advanced Screening

A comedy-romance starring **Mel Gibson, Helen Hunt** and **Marisa Tomei**. Be one of the first 30 GENTXTers to go to Harrison Communications* to get a pair of tickets.

Details to be announced, watch out for flyers and announcements

"Little Nicky", Advanced Screening

A fantasy-comedy starring **Adam Sandler** and **Patricia Arquette**. Be one of the first 20 GENTXTers to go to Harrison Communications* to get a pair of tickets.

Details to be announced, watch out for flyers and announcements

New Partners

This year opens with more establishments for GENTXTers to enjoy!

Rustan's Department Store

GENTXTers get 10% off on all regular cash purchases of Young Adult brands at Rustan's Department Store: Young VP and MRJr (available in all branches - Makati, Shangri-la Plaza, [illegible] Plaza, Alabang and Cebu), Dollhouse, Paris Blues, Free People, Kikgirl, Subway, Z. Cavaricci, Syrup, Mudd Jeans and Tops, Ultimate Swimwear, Tango Rose, Daffy, Rebel Beach, Point Zero, BC Ethics, Wooden Dog, Airwalk, On the Brink, La Rue Bags, Studio 18, Lo Bags and Shoes, Steve Madden Shoes and Accessories, Report Shoes, Me Too Shoes, Rocket Dog, Bella Nuova, Habana and Blue Q (available only in special branches - Makati, Shangri-la Plaza and Alabang).

Rustan's

Discovery Spa

GENTXTers get free manicure/pedicure for every full body massage at Discovery Spa, Ortigas Center, on cash and credit card payments. Not valid for any other offer

Discovery Spa

Art Avenue

GENTXTers get 15% off on cash purchases and 5% off on credit at Art Avenue, Pearl Drive, Ortigas Center.

ART ave.

Planet Mars

Every GENTXTer and one guest get free entrance every evening until twelve midnight at Planet Mars, A.S. Arnaiz Avenue (formerly Pasay Road). Not valid during special events or shows.

MARS

Pro Golf

GENTXTers get 10% off on specific golf equipment (Excalibur, Kunnan, Mitsuhiba, Uniqe, Horizon and Prestwick), free swing analysis and custom club fitting. Golf lessons available with prior appointment at Pro Golf, Park Square, Alabang Town Center and Shangri-la Mall.

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GENTXTers get 25% off on ck Calvin Klein or Nautica eyewear.

Avail of this sensational treat in any of these optical shops: Almeda, Casaje, Executive, George, Good Vision, Lenswork, Magno, Optical Works, Perez, Sabater-Pascual, Sarabia, Success Vision, The Optical Shop, V. Casaje, Vinas and Vision Express.

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ACA Video Offer 2 + 2

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ACAvideo

*HARRISON COMMUNICATIONS is at the 4F First Life Center Bldg., 174 Salcedo St., Legaspi Village, Makati City. Look for GENTXTer Cecille, flash your GENTXT card, and get your free tickets.

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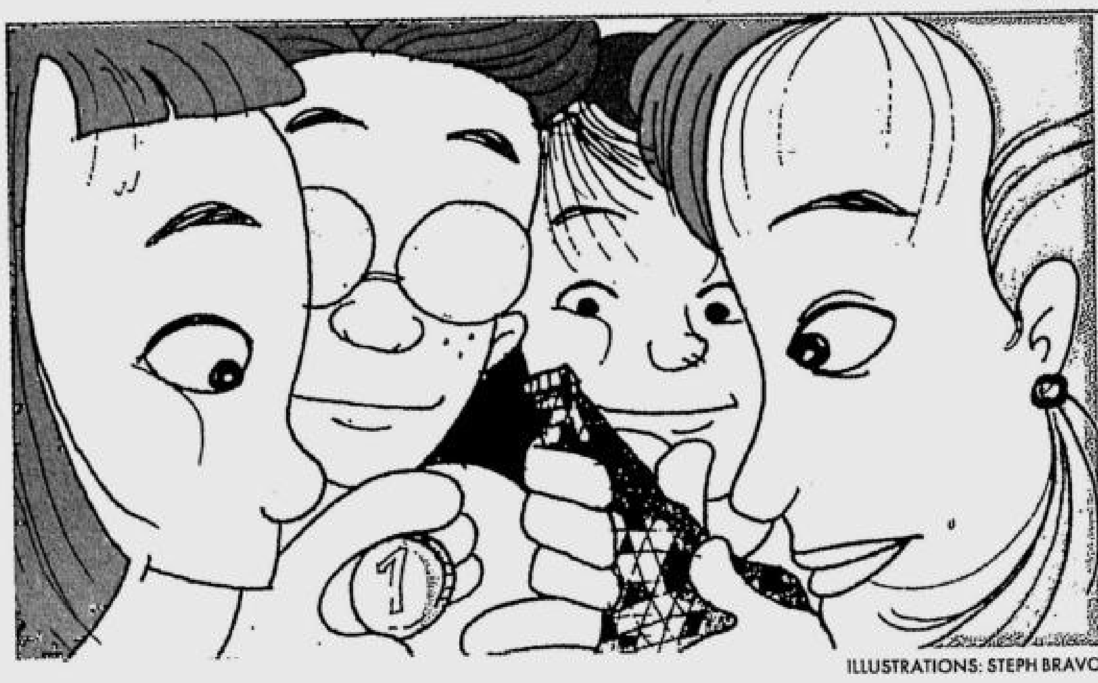
Sunday LIFESTYLE



ILLUSTRATIONS: STEPH BRAVO

We played 'jueteng' in the classroom

By Lala Castillo

What business does a Catholic school have in teaching children how to play the illegal numbers game? It's a business of dire import to the life of the nation

WHEN the *jueteng* scandal broke out, the first thought that crossed my mind was: how can we bring this down to the level of children?

I have never believed we ought to spare the

WE/ p.D2

Gambling in a culture of poverty

By Grace Shangkuan Koo, Ph.D.

WHEN at least 34 forms of gambling are available in a country where 70 percent of the people are living below poverty line, one can be sure that this is a hen-and-egg question: Why do Filipinos gamble so much and what satisfaction does one get in gambling?

Games, gaming and gambling

Children play spontaneously. At some point, however, they begin to look for structure that games provide. A game is a contest. It must have rules. It takes place with a given, agreed-upon time span. It is, in some way, artificial, a make-believe. And most importantly, it is played for fun.

Games can be classified into four: competition, chance, simulation and vertigo. The last group includes games that affect the physiological sense of balance, such as dizzy rides in amusement park, rock climbing and others that pose physical challenges.

The word *gaming* is usually reserved for games of chance. With the addition of two consonants, *gaming* becomes *gambling*. And what a great difference these two consonants make in the lives of men. While games are diversions for most people, gambling stimulates a deeper passion. For most people, games lose their appeal after a few hours of play. For gamblers the need to gamble becomes compulsive. Gambling is addictive. It may become a way of life—a central part of life.

Games and culture

Marshall McLuhan, in his book "Games," observes how games reflect the popular culture. Baseball, America's national pastime, was developed in the mechanical age and reflects its characteristics: things take place one at a time, each player handles a specific assignment and there is a hierarchical management system, much like the factory.

Football reflects the contemporary American culture. It reduces the idea of set positions, requires instantaneous information flow and has a tribal character that is similar to the modern business world.

Bullfights with their pageantry and fatalism reflect Spanish culture. Soccer is European. Ping-Pong requires patience and persistence, valued by Orientals. Tennis is elegant and Wimbledon is very British.

Gambling and the culture of poverty

Oscar Lewis, a sociologist, popularized the term "culture of poverty" to describe some of

GAMBLING/ p.D2

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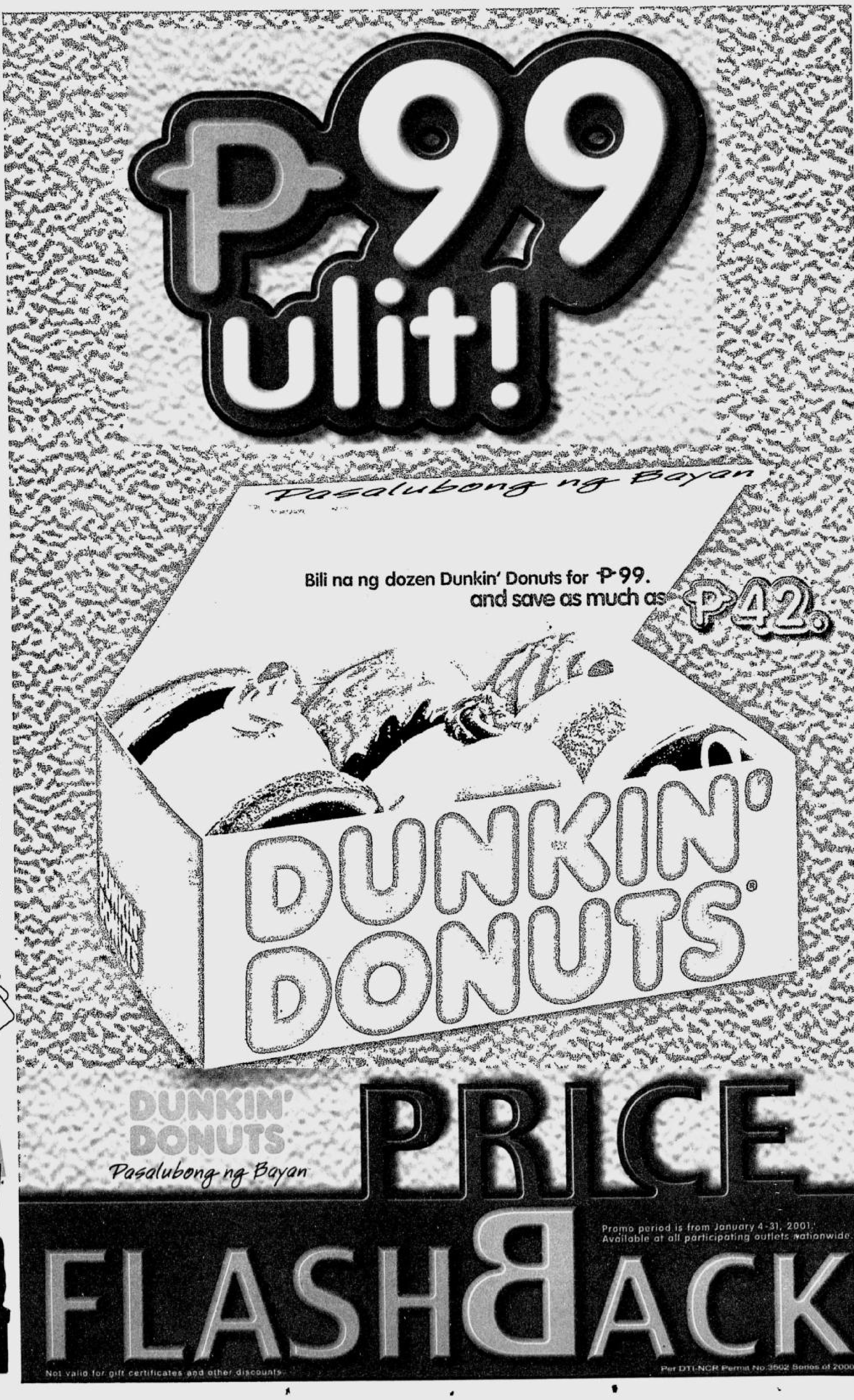
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We played 'jueteng' in the classroom

(From page D1)

children. No, not when all the headlines blared loudly about the *jueteng* scandal. At the Grade School Department of St. Scholastica's College, Manila, we have what we call "a living curriculum." This means we take current affairs of significance into the learning continuum. We stop our traditional lessons when we feel that the best way of teaching is to let life happen to the children at the moment when it is happening to everybody else.

These days, we educators cannot stop to wait. When history happens, the children are part of it. When the children turn 50 or 60, they should be able to tell a new generation how that history happened not from the books but from their own memories.

But this is 2000. We were braver in 1986. Perhaps because we were younger then. And because it was the first time many of us had ever taken an active part in political affairs. We did not know what we were risking then. We only knew then, with the innocence of children, that what we wanted to regain was worth the risk we were taking. And so Edsa happened.

In 1986 I brought the children wherever we adults went, thinking they should walk with us as we walked through history in the making.

We had thought the miracle would go on forever. But it did not. Maybe the worst thing about 1986 is that 15 years later, we are disappointed in ourselves and we do not want to experience the same frustration.

When the *jueteng* scandal happened, we asked each other "Where was the outrage?"

I called the head of our Social Studies department and asked her to find a way to teach the children about the *jueteng* scandal and its political and economic implications. She consulted with the teachers.

Experiential

One thing was sure in the minds of the teachers. They felt that they could not make much progress without first giving the children the experience of playing *jueteng*. This was when we adults realized we did not know how *jueteng* was played.

Experiential approaches are not new to teachers. All teachers in all subject areas know that experience is the best base for abstract and critical thinking.

Four assemblies were carefully planned. In fact, the experience needed to be very carefully planned. While we were innovating (and risking censure by people from the academe and outside), this was a very calculated risk. We all knew we could not afford to make a mistake. And the teacher who would process the experience must be very skilled in guiding children through the different levels of thinking to arrive at the critical thinking expected as the outcome of such a lesson.

We were actually combining many approaches as we embarked on this strategy: infusion, which we have been using to teach justice, peace and human rights concepts for the past decade now; inquiry, discovery, the human evocative approach and drama-and-theater-in-education. The bottom line was that while we were exploring all possibilities for the best pedagogical approach. We could not afford to make a mistake.

The fifth graders were the first to have the lesson.

Ms Fe Sanchez did an ordinary lecture-type presentation but included a Bingo 2 Balls game in the lesson. The Social Studies teachers observed her. The game of course was happy even if the bets were controlled to only one peso per child and the children were happy about winning till they observed that the *kubrador* earned more than they did. The *kubrador* was our student activity coordinator

Real-life drama

This realization led to a study of the present situation and an identification of the protagonists and antagonists in the national drama. It was fairly easy for the teacher to do this because the children had just gone through a similar analysis of characters in their post-production lesson on Nick Joaquin's "Portrait of the Artist as Filipino" (which they all watched because their teachers acted in it) and they knew the meaning of antagonist and protagonist.

The next grade level to be taught were the sixth graders. Again, the teacher began with a *jueteng* game using a Bingo 2 Balls procedure. After the game, she presented an editorial cartoon from the INQUIRER, which showed the different persons involved in the *jueteng* scandal. She had a simple question. Pointing to each caricature, she asked the children: "Why is he happy? Or, why is he not happy?" This would have led to what Social Studies teachers would call a structural analysis of the situation.

The assistant principal noted that the children could not analyze the cartoon too well. She proposed that the teachers do a DIE or Drama-in-Education approach using real adult characters to portray the policemen, the Mayor, and other protagonists, so it would be easier for the children to get the relationships and the connections.

Now we have one advantage in our grade school. We are probably the only grade school hereabouts using a Drama-in-Education approach. We have been using the approach for more than a decade. And all our teachers have been trained for this approach by drama expert Naty Crame-Rogers.

Furthermore, we had just finished staging "Portrait" at our newly renovated St. Cecilia's Hall and four out of my five male teachers had played in it. In that play, three of them played policemen.

That did it! We could do not exactly what in England and Scotland is called TIE (Theater -in Education) where professional actors figured in well-crafted drama (Note: This is different from the usual role-playing we make children do). Except this time, the actors were the teachers themselves.

For lack of time—we were just about to call off classes for the October break—and for lack of facilities, we decided to put the fourth and seventh graders together.

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ILLUSTRATIONS: STEPH BRAVO

Too young?

Someone objected. Were the fourth graders not too young?

There was a chorus of counter-objections. "Too young? The fourth graders know about elections and current affairs. In fact, they used to know the contents of Estrada's platform. They have been participating in campus elections which are exact replications of the national electoral process since they were in preparatory school."

After Edsa one of our major curricular innovations to foster the socio-political literacy of children was an interdisciplinary unit for the entire grade school titled "The Electoral Process." The course even has a Comelec composed of children and their teachers. Through it, the children experience every step of an election. They are taught to follow the process critically through media.

In fact, last year, while the children were organizing their political parties, the teachers got curious about a fourth grade party called EHNT. Asked what the curious initials were, the children replied, "It's Erap Hindi Namin Tutularan Party." Truly, out of the mouth of babes.

But back to the *jueteng* drama. So, the teachers decided to play *jueteng* with the children in assembly in our Little Theater. The children happily made their bets. *Kubradors* (assigned from among them) went around to collect their money. Those who did not have enough money of their own borrowed from classmates. But those children who did not want to join were forced to bet. However, because everybody was having fun, there were very few children who abstained. When the money had been collected, the "police" and the "mayor" came.

"*Walang gagalaw!* Raid *ito. Huli lahat ng nagju-jueteng. Unang isasakay ang mga kubrador!*"

The children, of course, were taken by surprise. They were so surprised that they did not recognize their teachers, who were very good actors. The female teachers who were with the children were also very good in acting out fear and shock.

As we had expected, there was chaos as the children scampered for hiding places in the theater. In their eyes and on their faces were fear and anxiety at the sight of uniformed policemen.

On cue, the *kubradors* gave the policemen and the mayor protection money so they would stop the raid. After the mayor and the cops had left, having pocketed the payoffs, the children were told that it was only a play.

Pedagogical tightrope

What followed was a deep analysis of the situation, using the method we use for the study of drama: the study of setting, plot and characters. The bulk of the analysis went into the analysis of the characters: their actions, their motivations, their roles as protagonists and antagonists.

What about the winnings, you may ask. The winners were given their winnings at the end of the sessions. In all cases, the children donated their winnings to the Catholic Missions since it was Mission Month. The fourth-grade winner was so horrified by the sordid episode that she refused to even touch the money, telling her teacher to just give it to the Missions.

The issue of giving the money to the Missions had a bit of humor in it as the days went on since the national picture took on the same colors (gray, of course). But at that moment, we simply told the children that we were giving them to the Missions because no winner wanted her money back. But we emphasized that the Missions or any charity should not be used as an excuse to engage in *jueteng* or any illegal act. It was a very simplistic way of tackling the issue, but we were walking on a pedagogical tightrope. Whether the Missions could be a legitimate and morally correct beneficiary of tainted money would have led us to kingdom come. We wanted to stress the structural and moral implications of illegal gambling.

So we survived the harrowing experience of walking through a painful period of our history with the children in tow. But we could not have done what we did had we stopped working on instilling on our children socio-political literacy on the grade school level after Edsa. As far as our curriculum is concerned, Edsa was a watershed experience from which we drew and continue to draw many innovative programs to foster in both our teachers and our children a sense of participation in the democratic process.

It is my belief that we cannot spare the children. For the future we are making is theirs. When I was 10 or 11, I came across a beautiful quotation from George Bernard Shaw: "The next war will be fought in the human mind and the victims will be the souls of the children."

No, we cannot stand by while our children become victims. We want to see them as victors.

Editor's note: The author is principal of the Grade School Department of St. Scholastica's College, Manila

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Gambling in a culture of poverty

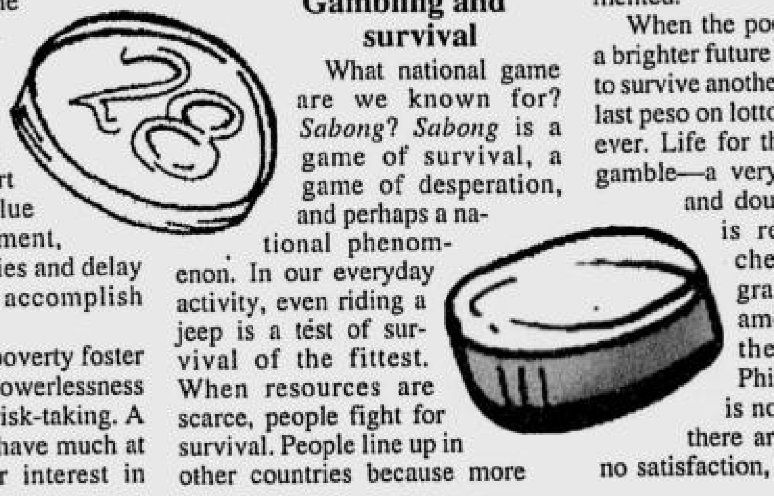
(From page D1)

the characteristics of the poor. They include a strong present-time orientation with little ability to delay gratification and plan for the future, a sense of resignation and fatalism, a high tolerance for psychological pathology, gregariousness and authoritarianism.

Those who have not been socialized to the culture of poverty have a future that is conceptualized, formed, sequential, and patterned. In contrast, the future for the poor is vague, unstructured and ambiguous. Being indifferent to the future, they reflect certain personality traits, such as preference for immediate gratification (thus, there's a greater incidence of premarital sexual experience among the poor), lower educational attainment, lack of financial savings and unreasonable overspending.

Those belonging to a culture of poverty would be more inclined to believe in luck. They believe external forces control the rewards they receive. In a non-poverty culture, people believe that reinforcements are contingent upon internal factors: effort and ability. They value hard work, achievement, improving their abilities and delay of gratification to accomplish goals.

The conditions of poverty foster in people a frame of powerlessness and disproportionate risk-taking. A person who does not have much at stake takes a higher interest in chance, seeking the company of friends instead of experts, and has a greater tendency to gamble. Gambling indicates the desperation of the poor.



Gambling and survival

What national game are we known for? *Sabong*? *Sabong* is a game of survival, a game of desperation, and perhaps a national phenomenon. In our everyday activity, even riding a jeep is a test of survival of the fittest. When resources are scarce, people fight for survival. People line up in other countries because more buses are coming and they come on time. People obey rules because they trust the people who make the rules and believe the rules will be effectively and equably implemented.

When the poor cannot hope for a brighter future and are barely able to survive another day, they bet their last peso on lotto or bingo, or whatever. Life for them has become a gamble—a very unwise decision, and doubly so when there is reported so much cheating, injustices, graft and corruption among the gamblers themselves. In the Philippines, gambling is not a game anymore: there are no rules, no fun, no satisfaction, only a sheer waste of time and energy.

A personal story

My husband and I stopped over in Las Vegas on our way to Grand Canyon some years ago. Lines of slot machines in the airport welcomed the passengers to the arriving desks. Some people could not even wait to get out of the airport for their gambling! An overnight stay at a luxurious hotel in Las Vegas could not even make us try a slot machine. There were better things to do. It was our second trip to Grand Canyon and yet the view was never grander after Las Vegas, with its greed, deceit, smog and alcohol.

E-mail the author at grace@usa.net. Visit http://www.sunnybrook.net for previous articles

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Workshop on teacher education ongoing

IN CELEBRATION of its centennial anniversary, the Philippine Normal University is hosting a Southern Asia sub-regional workshop on the "Reform of Teacher Education and Training" until today.

Funded by the Unesco Principal Regional Office and the Pacific in Bangkok, Thailand, the event is graced by 15 expert scholars in teacher education from all over the Pacific. They have converged at the PNU to chart the directions of teacher education/training in view of the emerging information society and develop conceptual framework to translate and integrate the four pillars of education in the training of prospective teachers.

The workshop also promotes more effective use of new technologies (e.g. TV, radio, computers and Internet) in the training and retraining of teachers and teacher educators on a larger scale.

Immediately after the Asia Pacific Teachers Education Workshop, PNU will host the International Conference on Teacher Education 2001 on Jan. 9-11 at the Manila Hotel. The conference's theme is "Teacher Education: Directions, Developments and Delivery of Teacher Education." The event will be attended by 400 participants to discuss the future of teacher education in the 21st century.

FREE OF FEAR

Robert Sardello, Ph.D., co-founder of the School for Spiritual Psychology, with Cheryl Sanders, LCDC, MS, will lead participants to a discovery of the role and purpose of fear in their lives during workshops to be held at the Institute of Social Order, Ateneo de Manila University, Loyola Heights, QC on Jan. 26-28 and Feb. 17. The workshops are sponsored by the Anthroposophical Group in the Philippines. Call Estela at (0917) 484-3495, e-mail estela3@edsamail.com.ph; Tesa at 371-3502, js@info.com.ph; or Jake at 371-5688, jaketan@edsamail.com.ph.

Cork uncorked

TEESAW

Raul Teehankee

THE **TRILLO** family has managed their wines and spirits business for decades now so it is not surprising that they have ventured into the restaurant-bar business.

They own the Beluga restaurant on Jupiter Street and their latest venture is the trendy bar called Cork, under the management of the beautiful Trillo sisters **Claudine** and **Angela**.

Of course, their mom, **Tita**, is always around to make sure that the wine "cellar" does not run out of **Anthony Trillo**'s reds and whites. Cork was uncorked at the Power Plant in Rockwell just in time to welcome Week No. 1 of 2001 and it was loaded with the most interesting and beautiful people of Metro Manila, a very enticing way to start the New Year.

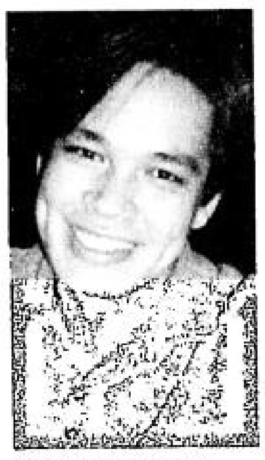
PHOEMELA Baranda

ANNE Trillo, bowler Paolo Valdez and Ed Rodriguez

ANGELA Trillo with boyfriend Jason Webb

SWEET TWOSOME. Yong Litonjua and Bianca Araneta

TV actress Andrea del Rosario



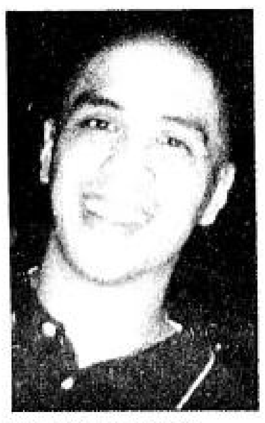
STOCKBROKER Alex Santos

PUBLISHER Dondi Almario and Leica Carpo

WENDY Puyat and Patrick Reyno

PEACHY Veneracion with *balikbayan* from New York, Uncle Masi

PUERTO Rican actor Don Stockwell



PACQUI Barrica

Q&A #9

Aside from discounts and earning points, what other benefits does the Ayala Malls Discount Plus card offer?

- Free use of telephone at the Discount Plus booth
- Free gift wrappers and bags
- Complimentary parking tickets
- Reserved seats in mall events

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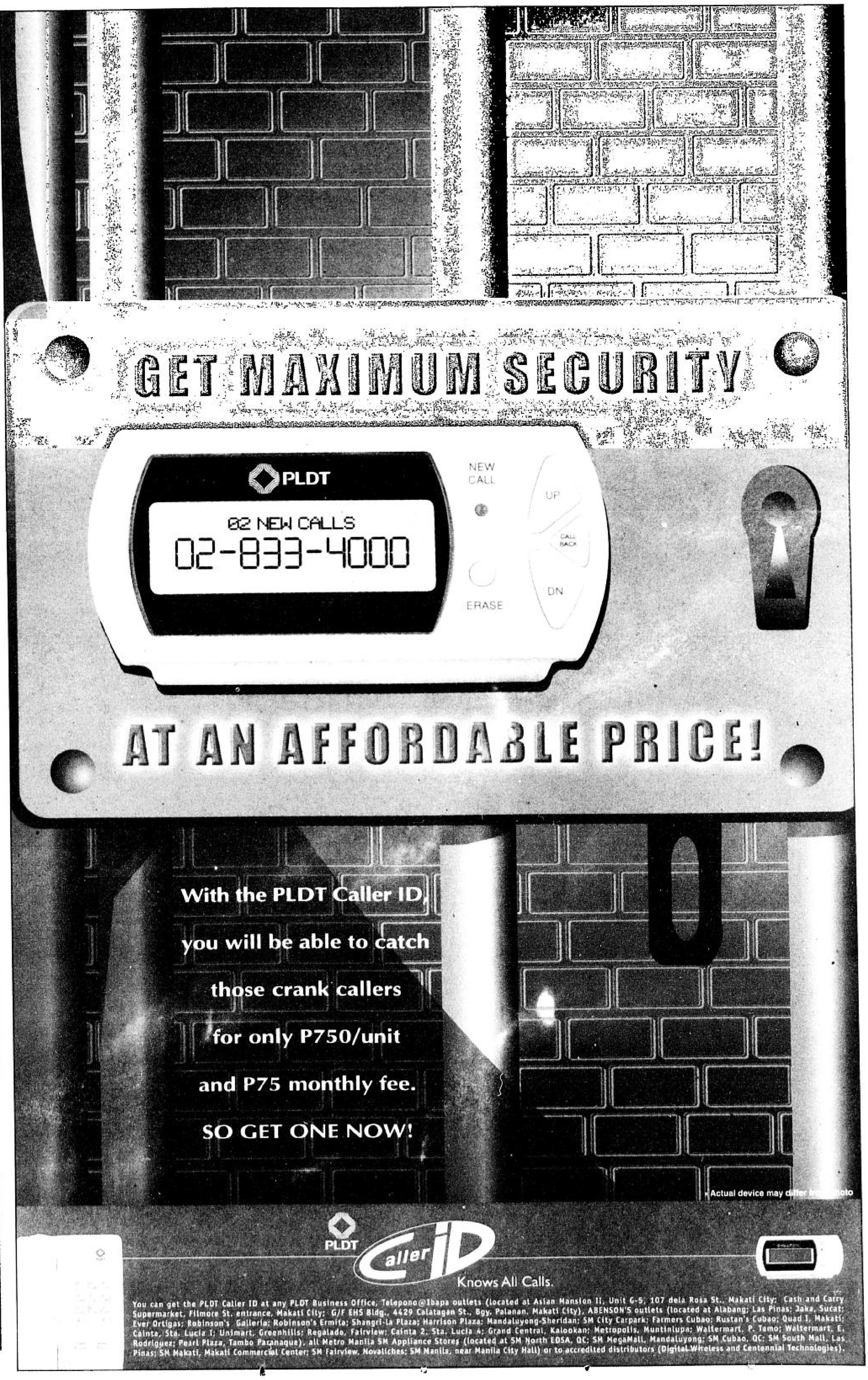
DISCOUNT PLUS HOTLINE-752-7324 to 25



With the PLDT Caller ID, you will be able to catch those crank callers for only P750/unit and P75 monthly fee. SO GET ONE NOW!

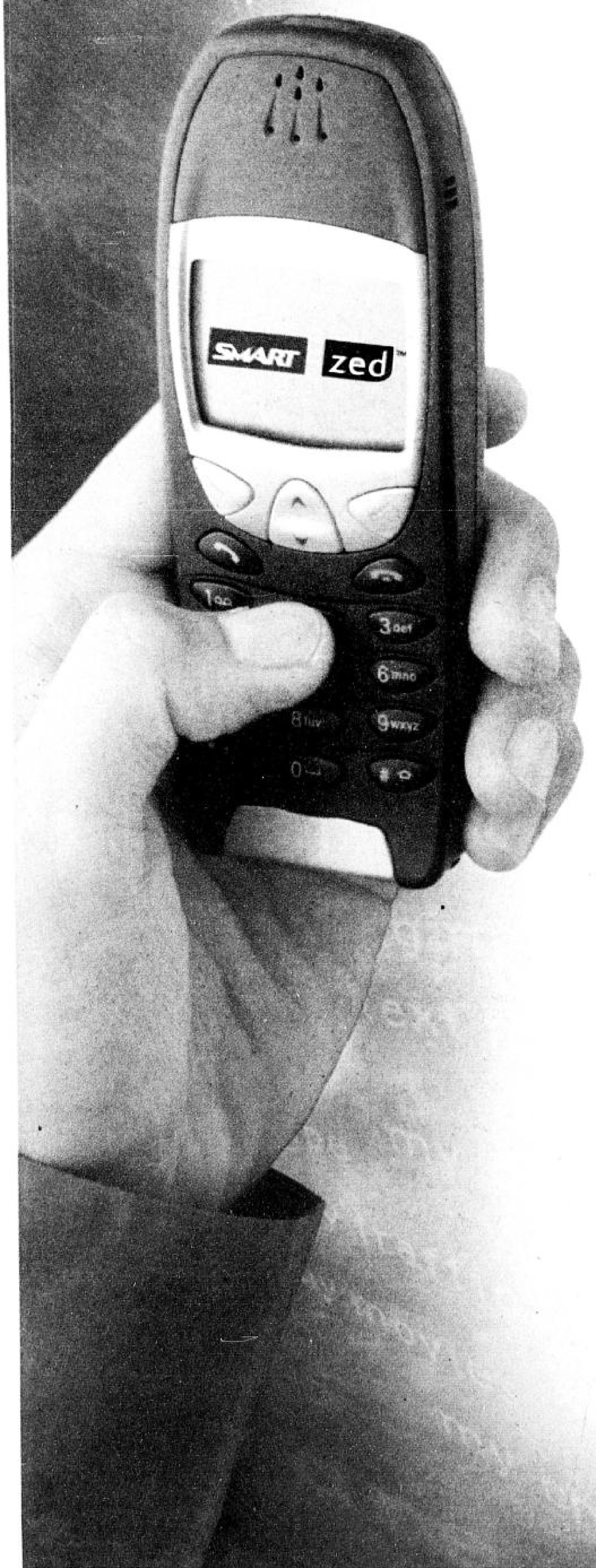
Actual device may differ from photo

PLDT Caller iD Knows All Calls.

You can get the PLDT Caller ID at any PLDT Business Office, Telepono@Ibapa outlets (located at Asian Mansion II, Unit G-5, 107 dela Rosa St., Makati City; Cash and Carry Supermarket, Filmore St. entrance, Makati City; G/F EHS Bldg., 4429 Calatagan St., Bgy. Palanan, Makati City), ABENSON'S outlets (located at Alabang; Las Pinas; Jaka, Sucat; Ever Ortigas; Robinson's Galleria; Robinson's Ermita; Shangri-la Plaza; Harrison Plaza; Mandaluyong-Sheridan; SM City Carpark; Farmers Cubao; Rustan's Cubao; Quad I, Makati; Cainta, Sta. Lucia I; Unimart, Greenhills; Regalado, Fairview; Cainta 2, Sta. Lucia 4; Grand Central, Kalookan; Metropolis, Muntinlupa; Waltermart, P. Tamo; Waltermart, E. Rodriguez; Pearl Plaza, Tambo Paranaque), all Metro Manila SM Appliance Stores (located at SM North EDSA, QC; SM MegaMall, Mandaluyong; SM Cubao, QC; SM South Mall, Las Pinas; SM Makati, Makati Commercial Center; SM Fairview, Novaliches; SM Manila, near Manila City Hall) or to accredited distributors (Digital Wireless and Centennial Technologies).

SMART zed™

ALL SMART zed services are AUTOMATICALLY available to all existing and future SMART GOLD & BUDDY subscribers.



1. What is SMART zed?

SMART zed is a mobile portal that houses local and global information and data services from SMART and Sonera zed. The concept is similar to a hypermarket or "supermall" where you can buy all kinds of goods and commodities. In the case of SMART zed, you can avail of the widest range of information and services on your SMART GSM celfone. SMART zed services are all network-based and thus, are not dependent on any particular SIM card. All you need is a SMART GOLD or BUDDY subscription to automatically enjoy SMART zed services.

2. How do I access SMART zed services?

ALL SMART zed services are AUTOMATICALLY available to all existing and future SMART GOLD & BUDDY subscribers. You can access SMART zed services using your current SMART GSM subscription in three ways:

- Wireless Application Protocol or W@P
- Text Messaging via the SMART zed STK SIM card
- Text Messaging via keywords

3. Do I have to register to access SMART zed?

No, there is no need to register to access SMART zed services. SMART zed is automatically available to all SMART GSM subscribers.

4. What are the requirements to access SMART zed services?

The only requirement to access SMART zed services, is that you are an active SMART GOLD or BUDDY subscriber.

5. Do I have to upgrade or change my current celfone to access SMART zed services?

No, there is no need to change or upgrade your current celfone. You can access SMART zed services using your current SMART dual-band GSM celfone.

6. Do I have to upgrade or change my current SIM card to access SMART zed services?

No, you do not have to change or upgrade your current SIM card, whether it be a 32K STK, a JAVA MBS or a non-STK SIM card. However, life would be so much easier if you had a SMART zed STK SIM card.

7. What is the SMART zed STK SIM card?

The SMART zed STK SIM card is a menu-driven, click-and-browse type of SIM card which allows you quick access to the wide array of SMART zed services. You simply scroll down the SMART zed Menu on your SIM card and click on your desired service. It's fast, convenient and very easy to use.

8. How do I get a SMART zed STK SIM card?

You can get the SMART zed STK SIM card by buying it from your nearest TSI outlet, at any SMART dealer or SMART Telecenter. Suggested retail price of a SMART BUDDY SIM Pack with a SMART zed STK SIM card is P990 (VAT inclusive).

9. When using W@P, how do I access SMART zed services?

If you are using W@P on your SMART GSM W@P celfone, you can access SMART zed services by logging on to the SMART W@P site and clicking on the SMART zed link. This will bring you to the SMART zed W@P site where you can access and enjoy all of SMART zed's services.

10. When using a non SMART zed STK SIM card, how do I access SMART zed services?

If you are using a non-SMART zed STK SIM card, you can automatically access all SMART zed services. You can use the SMART zed Keywords Manual as a guide on how to request and order SMART zed services. Simply visit your nearest SMART Telecenter, TSI outlet or any authorized dealer to get a complimentary copy of the SMART zed Keywords Manual.

11. What does personalization of SMART zed services mean? How do I access it?

Personalization means that you can actually make a one-time order for specific information services. These services will be sent to your SMART GSM celfone regularly on the dates and times you asked for without requesting for them every time.

Both SMART zed STK and non-SMART zed STK users may order SMART zed services that they want to be sent to them regularly.

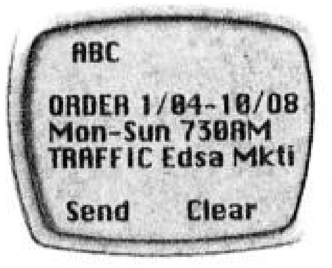
Here's how:

Web: To make your order via the Web, register your SMART GSM mobile number by logging on to **www.smart.zed.com**. After completing the process, you will then receive your SMART zed password. Log on and follow web instructions on how to order.

Text

1) To make your order via Text Messaging, follow the text format:

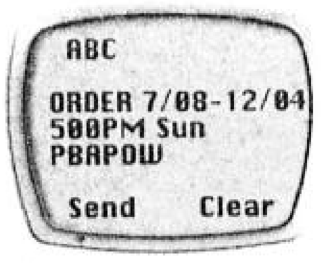
ORDER	time period	frequency	time	KEYWORD	*parameter
a) ORDER	1/04-10/08	Mon-Sun	730AM	TRAFFIC	Edsa Mkti
b) ORDER	7/08-12/04	Sun	500PM	PBAPOW (PBA Player of the Week)	
c) ORDER	11/01-12/31	Mon-Sun	600AM	WEATHER	Cebu



ABC

ORDER 1/04-10/08
Mon-Sun 730AM
TRAFFIC Edsa Mkti

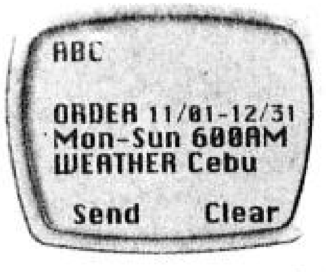
A



ABC

ORDER 7/08-12/04
500PM Sun
PBAPOW

B



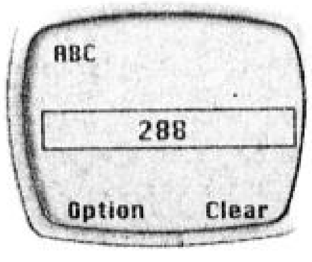
ABC

ORDER 11/01-12/31
Mon-Sun 600AM
WEATHER Cebu

C

NOTE: *Space is needed after every entry. PARAMETERS for different services are listed in the SMART zed Keywords Manual.*

2) Send to 288.



ABC

288

12) What are the different SMART zed services that I can personalize?

NEWS
National News
Regional News
News in Tagalog
Frontpage
Saksi
World News
Asia Business News
Traffic Updates
Local Weather
Sports News
  PBA
  NBA
  Golf
  Tennis

GAMES
Sweepstakes
Lotto Results
Horse Racing
Trivia

ENTERTAINMENT
Horoscope
Jokes
Today in History
Word of the Day
Quote of the Day

LEISURE
Books
Movie List
Race Results

BANKING & BUSINESS
Stock Quotes
Stock Index
  (PSE, Mining, etc.)
Exchange Rates
Foreign Index
Mutual Fund Prices
Time Deposit Rates
Jobs

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

13. How do I access the new SMART zed PET PAL service?

With the SMART zed PET PAL service, you can own a virtual dog, cat, parrot or dolphin. Feed it with cereals, fish, meat, ice cream, or milk, or even give it a bath and put it to sleep. Follow the instructions below on the different pet actions available for the PET PAL service.

Get Pet	GETPET <pet name> *Choose from: SPARKEE (dog)* *KAYTEE (cat)* *CLAWEE (parrot)* *BUBLEE (dolphin)*	233
Change Pet name	PET NAME <new pet name> *Here, you may give your pet a unique name.*	233
Pet Action	PET BATHE	233
	PET CURE.	233
	PET FEED <FOOD TYPE> *Choose from: CEREALS, FISH, MEAT, ICE CREAM, MEAT*	233
	PET HUG	233
	PET PLAY	233
	PET SLEEP	233
	PET HEALTH	233
Pet View	VIEWPET <PET NUMBER>	233

REMINDERS:

1) PET PAL service includes reminders or alerts which tell you how your pet is doing (like if it is hungry, dirty, sleepy, etc). These alert messages are NOT chargeable to you. They serve only to remind you about your pet. Charges begin only when you send a message or pet action. Please refer to your SMART zed Keywords Manual or scroll down the SMART zed Menu on your SMART zed STK SIM card to access the PET PAL service.

2) Viewing of your PET PAL is only available for NOKIA celfone models (For 6150 models, only versions higher than 4.11 are compatible). This function is operator logo-dependent. If you are using a non-Nokia celfone model, you can still maintain a PET PAL, however, you will not be able to view it.

3) To be able to view the pet, you have to type the 7-digit pet number. The number is given when you inquire about the health status of your pet (PET HEALTH and send to 233).

14. How do I request for ring tones, logos, icons and picture messages with SMART zed?

Requesting for ring tones, operator logos, caller group icons or picture messages on your NOKIA celfone is easy.

Picture Messages		
Get Picture	PIC <pic name>	288
Send Picture	PIC <pic name> <recipient's mobile number> <message>	288
New Picture	PIC NEW	288
Top Ten Pictures	PIC TOPTEN	288
Ring tones		
Get Tone	TONE <tone menu>	288
Send Tone	TONE <tone name> <recipient's mobile number>	288
New	TONE NEW	288
Top 10	TONE TOPTEN	288
Categories	TONEMENU	233
Search	TONESEARCH <category> or <title> or <artist>	233
Operator Logos		
Get Logo	LOGO <icon name>	288
Send Logo	LOGO <logo name> <recipient's mobile number>	288
New Logos	LOGO NEW	288
Top 10	LOGO TOPTEN	288
Categories	LOGOMENU	233
Search	LOGOSEARCH <category> or <name>	233
Group Icons		
Get Icons	ICON <icon name>	288
Send icons	ICON <icon name> <recipient's mobile number>	288
New	ICON NEW	233
Top 10	ICON TOPTEN	233

Please refer to your SMART zed Keywords Manual or scroll down the SMART zed Menu on your SMART zed STK SIM card to access these services.

REMINDERS:

a) Downloading of RING TONES and OPERATOR LOGOS can only be done using NOKIA 3210, 3310, 6150, 6210, 7110, 8210 and 8850 celfone models.

b) Downloading of CALLER GROUP ICONS can only be done using NOKIA 6150, 6210, 7110, 8210 and 8850 celfone models.

c) Downloading of PICTURE MESSAGES can only be done using NOKIA 3210, 3310, 6210, 8210 and 8850 celfone models.

15. What are the charges / rates of SMART zed services?

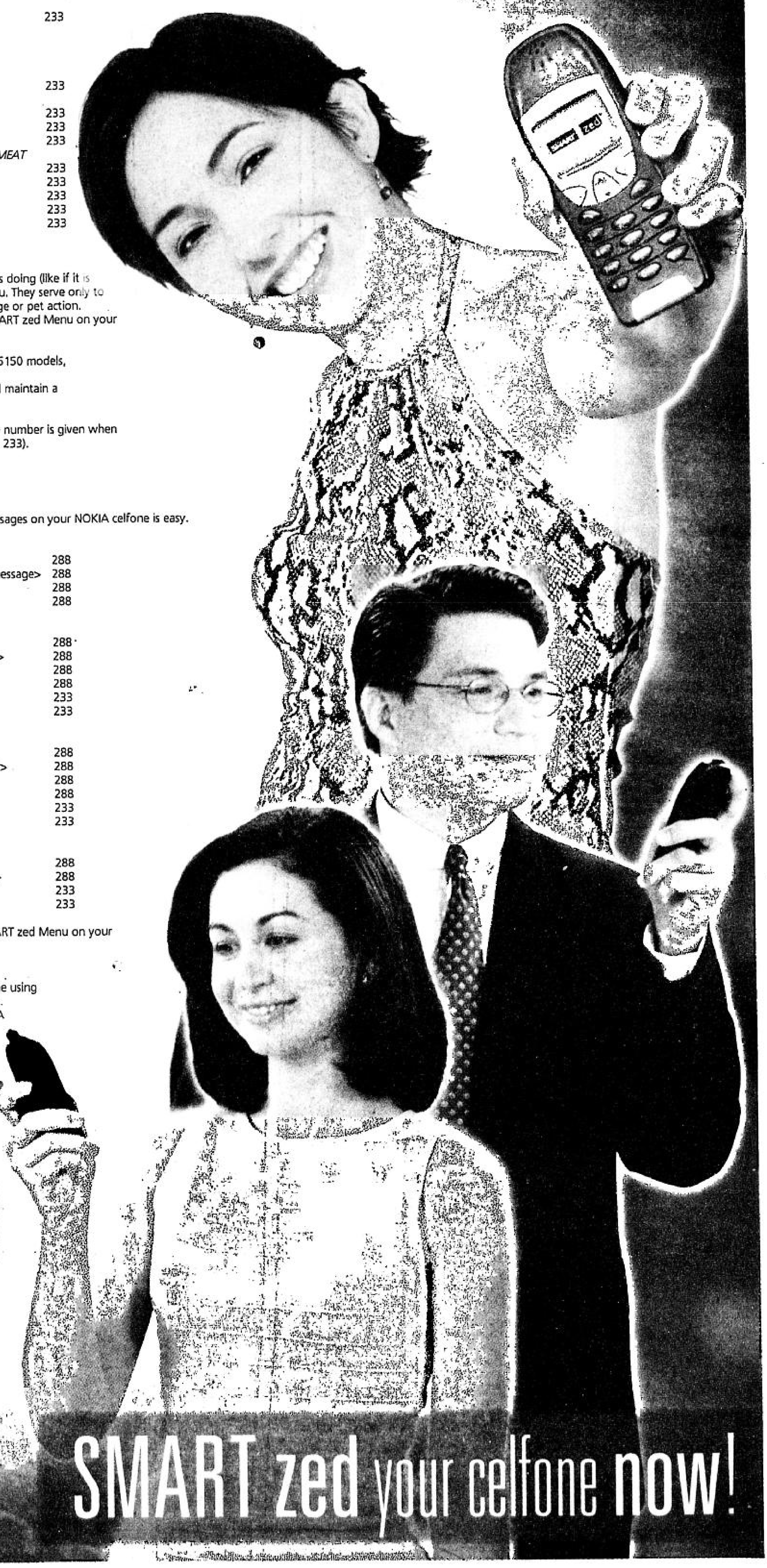
Basic SMART zed Info services	P2.50/request
Download of Ring tones, Logos, Caller Group Icons, Picture Messages	P12/request
SMART zed Finder	P15/ request

16. Am I charged for the message I send or for the message I receive?

You are only charged for the message you send. For instance, if you request for NEWS, you only pay P2.50 for it even if the reply to you is a three-part text message. Also, you will not be charged for "The info you requested is not available at the moment" replies.

17. Where can I get more information about SMART zed?

You can get more information about SMART zed by visiting the SMART website at **www.smart.com.ph** or **www.smart.zed.com**. You can also visit the SMART Telecenter nearest you to pick up a copy of the SMART zed Keywords Manual. For SMART zed inquiries, you can e-mail us at **customercare@smart.com.ph.**



SMART zed your celfone now!

Introducing the

Siemens A35

with six free stick-it faces

Actual Size
SIEMENS
SIEMENS
11:18 [Menu]
SIEMENS
SIEMENS
11:18 [Menu]
SIEMENS
SIEMENS
SIEMENS
SIEMENS
SIEMENS
Dark Blue
Black

Only

P3,990 all in!

(Suggested Retail Price)

With FREE P300 preloaded credit value.

Features:

- Small, sleek, comfortable design • Phonebook memory: 200 on SIM, 9 on phone
- Stores 30 text messages • Long battery life • 15 ring tones • Message preview
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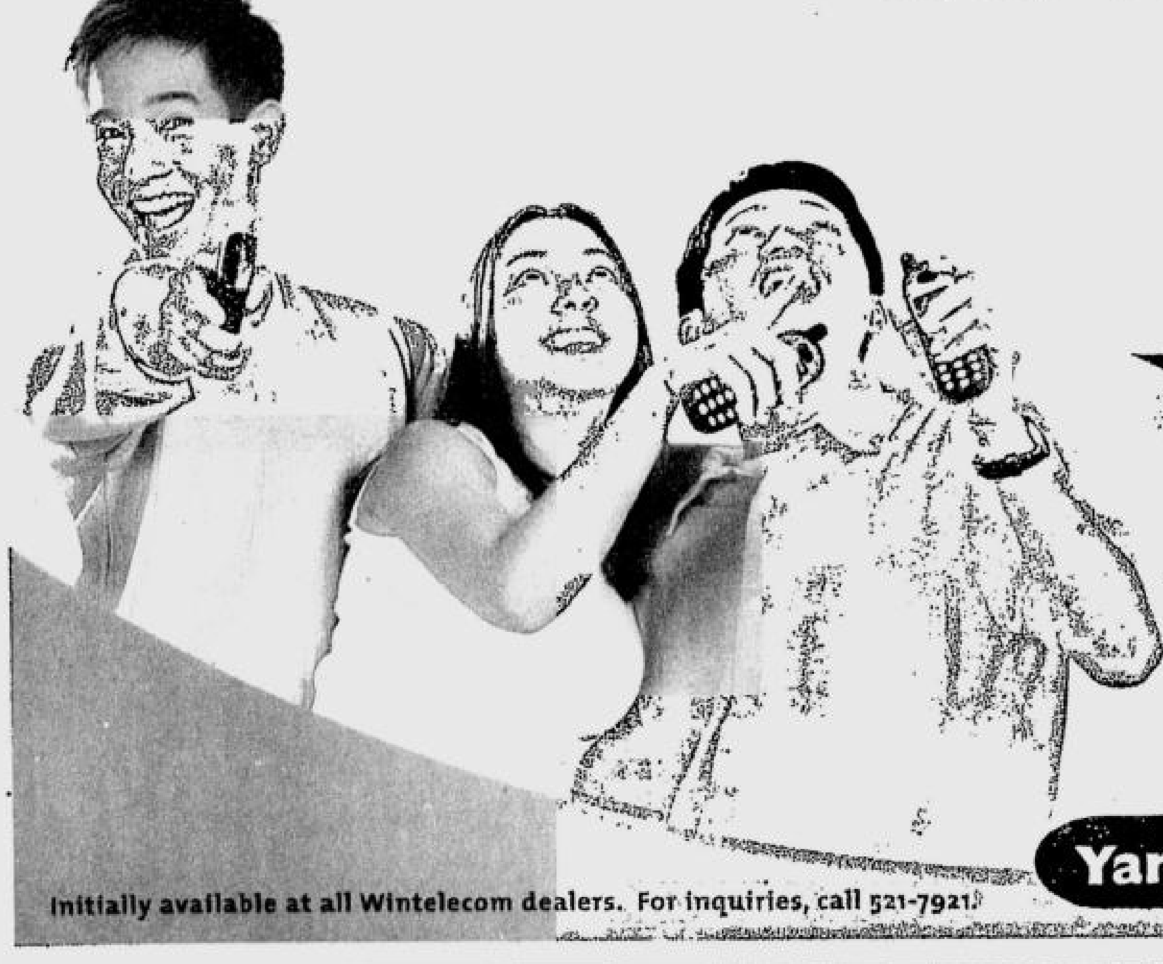
Grab one now!



TALK 'N TEXT™ GSM

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A man thinks he's gay and fears rejection

LIVE AND LET LIVE

Tita Dulce

DEAR Tita Dulce,

I'm 17. I haven't had any sexual relationship with anyone, but I am very much attracted to cute boys with strong sex appeal. I want very much to be near them and to be physically intimate with them. As for girls, I feel love toward them, and I appreciate their beauty, but I have no sexual desire for them. My sex fantasies would sometimes include girls, but mostly I see myself with boys. When a girl has a crush on me, I feel nothing. I've never heard of boys being attracted to me, though.

I have been hiding these from my family and friends. I even courted a girl (she turned me down), and join in teasing gays just to make my friends think that I am straight. I feel guilty about it, although sometimes I'm not sure if I'm doing right or wrong.

I thought it would be easy to mask my identity, but a friend had asked me if I am a homosexual. I denied being gay, of course, but she still asks it, which makes me nervous. I feel the real me has been exposed and my friends are avoiding me.

I don't know what to do and how to live the rest of my life. I am afraid of being rejected by society. People don't seem to understand my kind. Even priests don't accept us. Committing suicide sometimes crosses my mind when I feel I can't find the answer to my problem. Please help me.

GABBY

I agree with you, *hijo*, that people in general do not understand homosexuals. But then, no person, I believe, could distinguish facts from personal bias when discussing or thinking about homosexuality.

I also agree with you that priests do not accept homosexuality. However, as I understand it (and I welcome comments from priests on this and other points below), it is not the entire person whom the Catholic Church disapproves of, but just that person's homosexuality.

Perhaps another thing we should note is that since you have not had a homosexual relationship, then you are, technically speaking, not a homosexual but only a guy with homosexual tendencies. And these are tendencies which, as our letter shows, you don't quite accept but, instead, fear and lament. It is not rejection that the Church has for you; what it has for you, as the Catechism of the Catholic Church will tell you, is respect for your person, and compassion and sensitivity for your particular problem.

So please don't think your situation is so bad, *hijo*, that even priests would condemn you. They wouldn't. That's an important point to remember in case you want to explore the spiritual aspects of your problem. For such an exploration, priests would be your best guides.

For the medical or scientific aspects of it, it would be good for you to consult a psychologist or a psychiatrist. I hope you don't immediately rule out that option. You are neither happy nor comfortable with your homosexual tendencies. And, as you said, girls are not totally out of your sex fantasies. That means there is still the possibility that you cannot truly be a homosexual, that you have such tendencies only because your environment or past experiences have conditioned you to think that way.

(Professional psychiatric help can be expensive, but such assistance might be obtained free in big hospitals near you, especially in tertiary or general hospitals in Manila, Cebu and Davao. To find out discreetly, have a close friend or relative write the inquiry letter for you. That way, the reply would be addressed to him or her. Address the inquiry to the psychiatry department chair or to the hospital director. The letter should not name you, but only refer to you as a friend who would like to know about charity/free psychiatric counseling services.)

It would be nice, of course, if everyone—particularly your schoolmates—could understand your situation. It would be nice if they would realize that so long as you do not act out your sex fantasies and desires then they are no worse than any other sex fantasies and desires—straight or gay.

Just as a heterosexual male's fantasies of rape do not really make him a rapist, then a guy's homosexual fantasies do not actually make him a homosexual. If you have sinned in your sexuality, then it has been the sin of lust—and which healthy guy or girl, straight or gay, can say he or she has not lusted and will never lust again? It would be nice if they realize that since you cannot be truly called a homosexual, and since everyone lusts, then there is really no ground for them to reject you for what you are now.

I'm sure some of them would understand if you could find the courage to explain it to them. And if they don't understand, or if they refuse to, then just hang on to the thought that if they insist on running around with their biases and closed minds, if they insist on unfairly condemning you, then it's them—not you—who'll answer to Him for that.

You can help them, though, against rushing into a judgment about you. One way to do that is to modulate your effeminate manners or the outward manifestations of your homosexual tendencies. Note that I said "modulate," not "hide" or "erase." Based on what I can guess from your letter, you have been trying to hide and erase them for quite some time now, but have been unsuccessful. So stop punishing yourself.

If you can't erase such mannerisms, then you'll probably not be able to hide them. But you can at least modulate or tone them down. So, as much as you can, especially when in public, avoid "typecast" gay behavior such as shrieking when excited or surprised, or swaying your hips femininely when you walk, or flapping your hands too limply when you gesture. Such mannerisms or movements call people's attention (often when you don't have to), and most people's minds have a nasty habit of concluding—erroneously—that when a guy moves that way, then he is a homosexual (instead of merely effeminate) and is, therefore, guilty as sin.

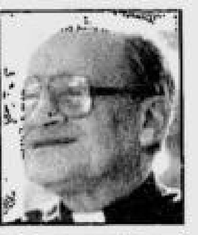
How should you live your life? I suggest you only live it day to day, keeping in mind that you only have its tendencies, not homosexuality itself. Don't think too far ahead that you imagine the day when you find out that, indeed, you are a homosexual, you are immobilized by the fear that society will condemn you.

Keep in mind, too, that if one were a homosexual, then that fact is only incidental to many other things that he is or can be. To the people around him, he can still be an effective legislator, or a talented artist, a productive employee or a creative entrepreneur, a useful community member, a good and caring friend, a beloved son or a dear brother.

E-mail titadulce@netscape.net or send letters to P.O. Box 2353, Makati CPO 1263 Makati City, or PDI, Chino Roces Avenue corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City

Fulfillment of our salvation through Mother Mary

MUSTARD SEED



Joseph Galdon, S.J.

OUR new year—the Year of the Holy Spirit—begins with the celebration of the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, on Jan. 1. A mother, of course, is a very special person. She is the giver of life—physical, psychological and spiritual. Not only does she nurture the baby in her womb, but she also takes care of her child after birth, through childhood, adolescence and maturity. Our mother is always there beside us in all the important moments of our lives, inspiring us to smile and go on with love in times of difficulty, and rejoicing with us when we do well. Mary is also our mother—God's finest gift to us in our lives here on earth.

St. Paul says that God's immense love of us is made incarnate (made human) in Jesus who makes us all children of the Father through the gift of the Holy Spirit. Paul says: "When the designated time had come, God sent forth His son, born of Mary, that we might be his adopted sons and daughters." It's nice to know that Jesus is our brother and Mary is our mother. On Jan. 1 we honor Mary for her faith and hope and love, her submission to God's word, her motherhood and her commitment to God. She is the mother of Jesus, our mother, and mother of the Church and our country. Mary is a wonderful woman, a special mother—full of grace—who can teach us a lot about life.

The Blessed One

About 2,000 years ago, Mary, who was betrothed to Joseph, had a day more exciting than we will ever have. On that day she learned she had been chosen by God for the greatest honor ever bestowed on a human being. The Archangel Gabriel called her "the blessed one, full of grace" and said God was with her. Gabriel went on to explain she was going to give birth to a son—a blessing for any woman. But her son would not be an ordinary son. He would occupy the throne of David. He would be the long-awaited Messiah, the Savior that God had promised Israel. He would also be our Messiah, and His kingdom would never have any end! He would be the Son of God.

A Filipina sister wrote very beautifully one time that Mary was "a very loving mother and *yaya*. She washed Jesus' diapers, made His meals, sang Him lullabies when He was falling asleep, gathered up all His toys and taught Jesus His prayers. She also stood at His feet as He hung upon the cross. She kept Him warm in her arms when He was born, and held His cold body in her arms when He died. She always held Jesus close to her heart!" Let us thank God our Father for sending us His son, born of Mary.

A loving Mother

Jesus is Mary's son, so we, too, are her children since we are the brothers and sisters of Jesus. Mary shows her motherly love for us by assisting us in many ways and interceding for us with God, Our Father in heaven. It is her wish and her intercession for us that we turn our love toward Jesus who is the fountain of our love, and the source of faith and peace in our lives here on earth. Mary shows us the way to her son and she tells us that Jesus—our Kuya Jess—can help us and answer all our needs. Mother Mary is also very sensitive to our needs. She knows that it is only when we respond to God's will that all our needs will be fulfilled. She tells us: "Do whatever Jesus tells you. Follow God's will, not anything foolish in life, and you will be a very happy and holy son or daughter. May Jesus bless you and keep you! May His face shine upon you and be gracious to you! May the Lord look upon you with love and give you peace!"

In his letter to the Colossians, St. Paul has a very good summary of what Mary Our Mother is teaching us. They are the beautiful lessons every mother ought to teach her children. In the words of Paul, Mary tells us: "Because you are God's chosen ones, my sons and daughters, clothe yourselves with heartfelt mercy, kindness, humility, meekness and patience. Bear with one another. Forgive whatever grievances you have against one another. Forgive your enemies, just as the Lord has forgiven you. Over all these virtues you ought to put on love, which binds all the other virtues together and makes them perfect. Jesus' peace must reign in your hearts since, as his brothers and sisters, you have been called to that peace and holiness. Let the word of Christ dwell in you. Whatever you do, do it in the name of your brother Jesus."

Channel of God's blessings

Mary is also the Mother of the Church. The Church, like us, needs a mother because the church is a family. The theologians tell us "the Church is really not an organization or an institution. The Church is the family of God!" Every family needs a good mother. Mary teaches us and takes care of us, and she also teaches and takes care of the Church. She prays for the Church that may help us all find our way to God. Mary's prayers and intercession for the Church are very good, but so is her example of love and commitment to God. We need a church of love and commitment to God, don't we? Mary is the Mother that our Church needs, just as we need her. For the Church is the family of all Mary's children and the brothers and sisters of Jesus.

Pope John Paul II said last year that: "As the Church goes forward with the whole of humanity toward the Third Millennium, and in union with the family of believers and all men and women of good will, we should respond to the challenge of Mary, Our Mother. The people who have sinned and fallen must struggle to rise again. The Church must pray to Jesus and to Mary and say: "Help us." The Church must see Mary deeply rooted in its history. The church must also see Mary maternally present and sharing in the many complicated problems which today beset the lives of individuals, families and nations. We, in the Church, must see Mother Mary helping us in the constant struggle between good and evil, to make sure our country and our world does not fall, or if it has fallen, that it will rise again." Mary is our Mother in the Church. She will always help us be good people, brothers and sisters of her son Jesus and children of her whom we love as our mother. May the Church always be an effective and loving channel of God's blessings and graces through the intercession of Mary, Mother of the Church.

The most wonderful Woman

Mother Mary is truly the most wonderful woman of the world because she is such a good mother. When we were little kids we were taught that Mommy is the one who will always take us back when no one else wants us or when we have done something that is very bad. Mary is surely that kind of mother. Like her son Jesus, she loves us even if no one else does! She is the mother of Jesus. She is our mother. She is also the mother of the Church and of our country, which are our families. We all need a mother like Mary to love us and take care of us. On this feast of Mother Mary let us pray that our salvation will be brought to fulfillment through the love and intercession of Mary Our Mother.

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The above offers are valid from January 16 to March 21, 2001. Book early for your choice of departure dates. For more details or to make your bookings, please contact your travel agents or the SIA Tours Desk at 751-5151/52 or 810-4960 ext. 4005 4006.

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Stylish carry-all, '80s high and Bushnell's latest bestseller

BY ANTON SAN DIEGO

MUST-HAVE bag—the Hermes Birkin. You are absolutely right to think that no one will purchase an Hermes bag, what with the US dollar being so high. But there are a few women of style who already have one and were lucky enough to get one (with much patience I am told). This must-have bag has a waiting list of nine months to two years and may cost anywhere from $5,200 (30 cm) in calf to $18,000 (45 cm) in crocodile.

The Birkin was named after and made for '60s style icon **Jane Birkin**. She is known for recording "Je t'aime, Moi Non plus" with husband **Serge Gainsbourg** and for starring in Antonioni's film, "Blow-Up." Her rise to fashion legend came about when she happened to sit next to **Louis Dumas-Hermes** on the plane. He noticed her straw bag, which was spilling over with papers and falling apart. He invited her to his factory to create a bag big enough to "hold her house" and, of course, stylish enough for her and the house of Hermes.

The Birkin is called the Rolls Royce of bags; it is built for a lifetime and a legacy. It isn't a showy bag but discreet, roomy with the best leather and craftsmanship. It's the most sought after bag in the world along with the Hermes Kelly (named after **Princess Grace [Kelly]**). The stylish women in Manila who have been seen with a Birkin are: **Rina Ortiz, Tina Ocampo, Mai Mai Cojuangco, Kathy de Guzman, Mons Tantoco, Melissa Lopez, Bela Vasquez** and **Nerissa Mathay.**

MUST-HAVE BAG. The Birkin by Hermes is the most sought-after bag in the world.

SEPARATED AT BIRTH? Lawyer Flaminiano and Bayani Casimiro

Reminiscing about the '80s. Last November I attended my high school reunion. You know how it goes—you exchange pleasantries, talk about former teachers you hated and liked and reminisce about events that transpired during those years. It was heartwarming to see so many familiar faces and to know that my guidance counselor, **Vicky Sycip-Herrera**, still worked there and looked exactly the same. She was such an inspiration to all of us. When you attend reunions, you can't help comparing wallet and girth sizes, picking out who still has hair, who's married or not, etc. Well, the highlight that night for me was knowing that I looked better than some of my former classmates despite not having their wallet size.

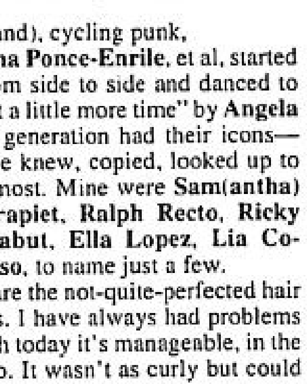
"IT" GIRL. Sam Eduque was one of the most popular and emulated (and still is) girls during my high school years.

The reunion made me sentimental and reminisce about the '80s (that's the year I graduated) and why somehow it is coming back and in fashion again.

Last year, foreign fashion magazines like Vogue, Bazaar, etc. have promoted '80s fashion—from gold, hoop rings and punk, to those dreaded shoulder pads. These fashion statements haven't really hit Manila (excess is not in) especially when the country is going through a crisis. Nevertheless, if we can't get it through fashion then maybe we can imbibe it mentally.

What made the '80s so special that we want them back? The drama, glitz and the wildness. The '90s was about minimalism and being politically correct (Honey, he's not black, he's Afro-American). The '80s were about reckless abandon and the year of firsts. The first kiss, first time I tried pot but didn't inhale, first love and sex. It was the time when **Madonna** and **Cyndi Lauper** were lording it over the airwaves. They had originality and spunk unlike the later years' pop divas, **Britney** and **Christina**. The latter are too polished, lack soul and are products of stylists and their record labels. Somehow, it's comforting to know that **Sade** and **U2** have new albums out.

The other things I miss about the '80s are: Dairy Queen (Buendia Avenue), the original Tia Maria's; Las Conchas, "Dynasty," Crayon shoes (not!), inane songs like "I Eat Cannibals," Tears for Fears, Rizal Theater, those parties given by Assumption and La Salle which even had invitations that said "Class S-4 invites L-2" or something like that. The parties featured a mobile disco and the proverbial brawls in the parking lot or street. I miss going to Faces disco, except for those *masungit*, snobbish women at the door who either did not pay attention to you or, worse, did not let you in. In the disco, I remember going up to the ledge for the first time. I was so nervous thinking everyone was watching but managed to get the nerve to do it anyway, only to find out later that I would have to leave since the WEA dancers were performing that night. I miss those crazy dances that, if asked, I would not demonstrate, like metallic gigolo (with matching headband), cycling punk, and the one that **Katrina Ponce-Enrile**, et al, started (where you moved from side to side and danced to the song, "Give me just a little more time" by **Angela Clemons**). Also each generation had their icons—people whom everyone knew, copied, looked up to and talked about the most. Mine were **Sam(antha) Eduque, Macky Carapiet, Ralph Recto, Ricky Led(esma), Peter Yabut, Ella Lopez, Lia Cojuangco, Vivian Veloso**, to name just a few.



MUST-READ. The latest book from Candace Bushnell, "4 Blondes"

What I don't miss are the not-quite-perfected hair products of those days. I have always had problems with my hair. Although today it's manageable, in the '80s my hair was Afro. It wasn't as curly but could grow as big. I remember someone telling me for the first time to use gel. Excitedly I went to Mercury Drug (wrong place) and guess what they gave me? KY Jelly. I explained to the salesmen what I needed was for the hair and they gave me a lubricant. Not knowing what its purpose was, I placed some on my hair and was surprised that my hair still sprung up, not to mention my hand was all slippery.

Back to the class reunion. There I was feeling good about my looks when all of a sudden, some kids greeted me with "Hi, *Tito*!" I tried not to pay attention till they tapped me on the shoulder. Reality check! I was surprised to see my friends' kids, who belonged to the class of '98. It hit me then that there's a downside to all these reminiscing, which is that it reminds you of your age. It's been 20 years since the '80s and there are still a lot of stories to tell. Despite the age factor, I left the reunion feeling good and thinking that the most comforting part about getting older is that some things get better with age.

Must-read book—"4 Blondes" by Candace Bushnell. My "closure" friend gave me the latest book of **Candace Bushnell**, who wrote the hit TV series "Sex and the City," titled "Four Blondes." It is an uncensored look at the mating rituals of Manhattan's elite and a funny take on the romantic liaisons of four women: a B-list model, a high powered journalist, a woman who marries a prince, and an artist and aging 'It' girl. The book, like the TV series, is a funny take on women's choices and the price they have to pay for it. It's dark, true-to-life, witty, highly entertaining and razor sharp. The book has been on the NY bestseller list for eight weeks. Up next for the writer is a screenplay on Cecilia, the woman married to the prince in her book. I wonder if that's about **Princess Chantal Miller-Pavlos**?

I can't get through January without... Knowing what's in store for the Philippines for the year 2001?... Finding out which one of my New Year's resolutions I am going to break first... Attending **Benjie Toda** and **Monique Trinidad**'s wedding... Knowing which of my credit cards I will have to cancel because of last month's overspending... Going to the new salon Emphasis at the Rockwell (Bali-inspired salon done by one of Manila's sought after architects, **Conrad Onglao**, and managed by super-talented **Teng Roma**)... Finding out what "goobledygook" really means and why it's so important for the senators to discuss it for 10 minutes in the trials... Praying that those bombings would not happen again and hoping they catch the perpetrators...Getting *tikoy* and *ampao* during the Chinese New Year... Knowing if Sen. **Ramon Revilla** will speak up again, which senator will be caught sleeping first, or if the mistresses will ever testify... Finding out if **Rosanna Fores, Bettina Aboitiz** and **Dante Jimenez** are going to sue that woman and if they will ever get their seats back in the Senate gallery... Congratulating VP **Gloria Macapagal Arroyo** for her new look and demeanor... Getting someone to interpret Sen. **Miriam Santiago**'s speeches... Knowing if lawyer **Flaminiano** and **Bayani Casimiro** were separated at birth...

E-mail the author at asd_world@hotmail.com

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Sunday **LIFESTYLE**

Weddings & Engagements

NEWLYWEDS Maria Tricia Guiua and Rondelle de Leon

Marriage vows before seven priests

RONDELLE de Leon and Maria Tricia Guiua were wed in charming and elegant rites at the Christ the King Parish, Greenmeadows, Quezon City. The Eucharist celebration was officiated by the Most Rev. Bishop Rolando J. Tria Tirona, Most Rev. Bishop Cirilo R. Almario Jr., Msgr. Jaime J. Mora, Msgr. Anacleto Golimlim, Rev Fr. Moises Bong Cabrera, Rev. Fr. Erasmo P. Lapig and Rev Fr. Nanding Ersando.

Reception was held at the Isla Ballrooms 1, 2 and 3 of the Edsa Shangri-La.

The entourage was composed of Jeffrey de Leon, who stood as best man, and Caroline de Guiua, the maid of honor. John Frazer Reynon and Claudine Guiua were the veil sponsors, while Andronico Guiua and Cheryl de Leon were candle sponsors. Kim Maverick Narvaez and Jayron de Leon were ring and coin bearer, respectively. Shane Navarro and Alyanna Therese Pascual were the flower girls.

The principal sponsors were Gov. Casimiro Ynares and Gov. Josie dela Cruz, Robert Coyiuto Jr., Jovita de Jesus, lawyer Romeo Roxas, Angelita Jose, Armand Raquel Santos, Rebecca Barrios, Wilfrido Villarama, Maria Leonides del Rosario, Charile Lee, Teresita Chu, Ruben Mercado, Violeta Castano Carlos, Dr. Rafael Pascual, Auxilladora Bustos, John Allison Guiua, Maria Corazon Akol, Bartolome Ramos and Priscilla Meneses.

(More photos on page E8)

WITH THE EUCHARISTIC celebrants, from left, Fr. Erasmo Lapig, Msgr. Jaime Mora, Bishop Cirilo Almario, Jr., Bishop Rolando Tria Tirona, Fr. Moises Bong Cabrera, Msgr. Anacleto Golimlim and Fr. Nanding Ersando

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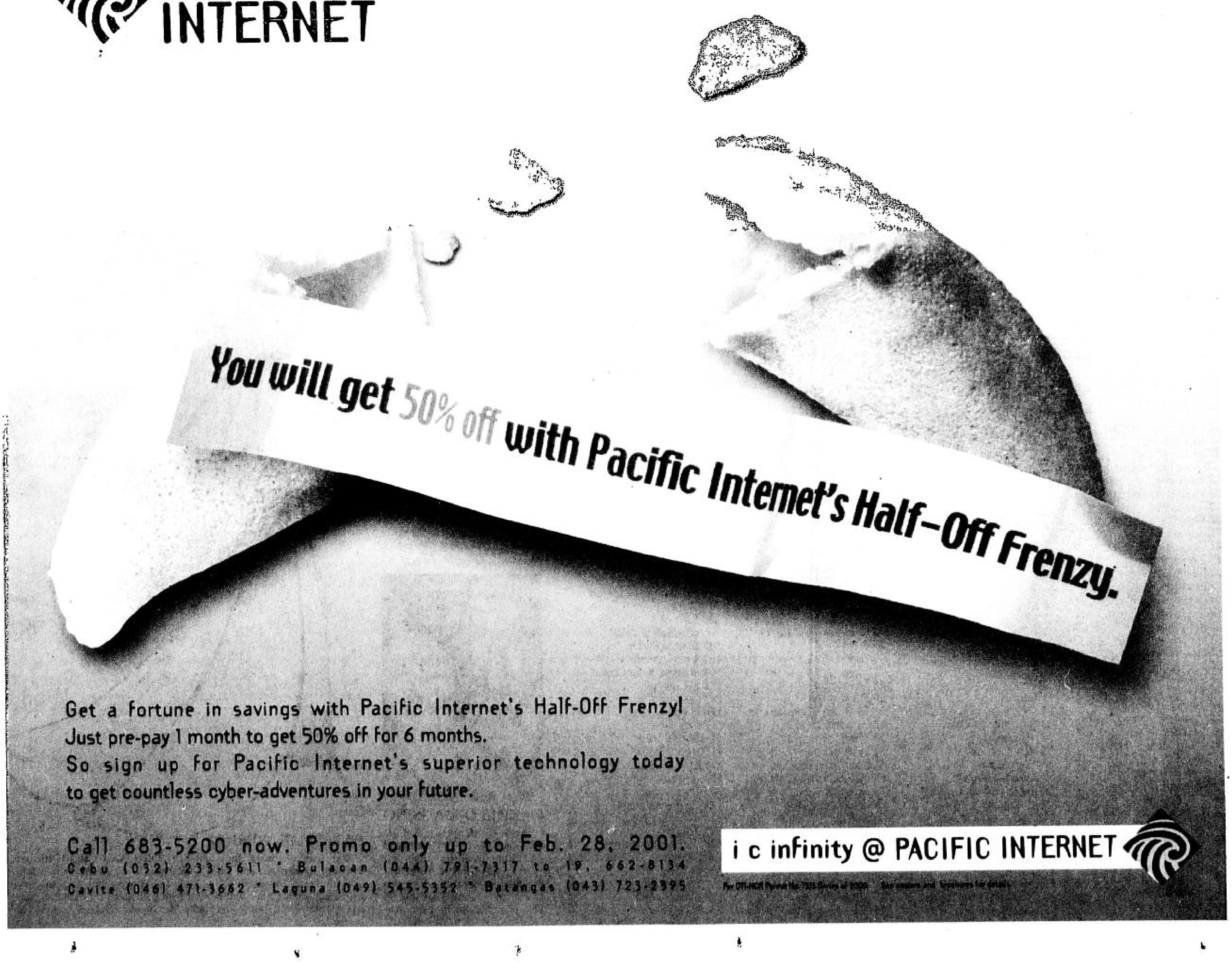
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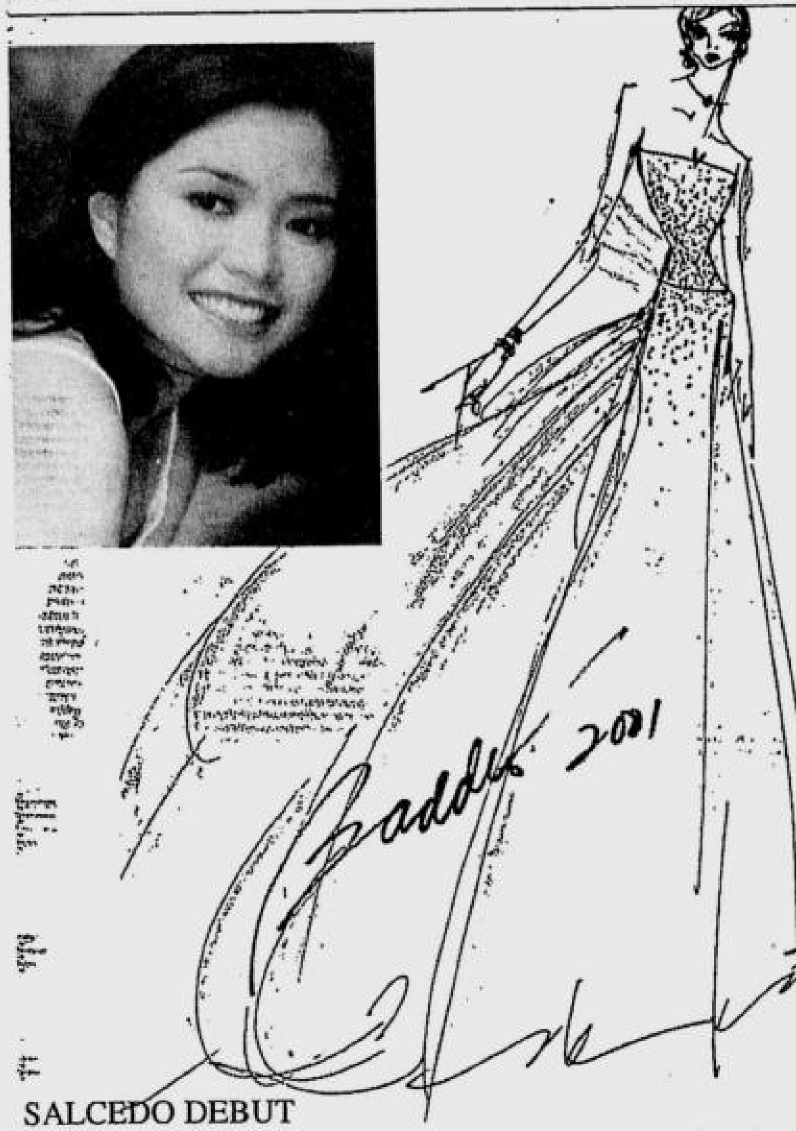
Milestones

We're accepting announcements of weddings and engagements. Please send the following typewritten information: names of engaged couple, names of parents, date and place of wedding, gown designer and other related information. Readers can send sketches of gowns and pictures of the couple at least one month before the wedding. This will be printed depending on space availability and at no cost to the sender.



SALCEDO DEBUT

Sarabeth Samson Salcedo, daughter of **Edgar** and **Dolly Salcedo**, will celebrate her 18th birthday on Jan. 12 at the Maynila, Manila Hotel. Sarabeth is a senior and Katekista member at Poveda Learning Center.

The debutante will wear a rose pink dupioni silk strapless gown in dramatic bare back attached with five layers of Swarovski crystal stone straps. The bodice and skirt are accentuated with sunburst-style beading of pink, silver, gray caviar and cut beads with lots of Swarovski crystal stones. The gown is an **Eddie Baddeo** creation.

BRUAL DEBUT

Trisha Marie Brual, daughter of **Godo Brual III** and **Marie Zulueta** of Bauan, Batangas, will celebrate her 18th birthday with a dinner-dance and grand cotillion on Jan. 20 at the Makati Shangri-La's Rizal Ballroom. Trisha is a communication arts freshman at De La Salle University. She will wear a **Rajo Laurel** creation.

PUA-DAVID

Julienar "Bobot" C. Pua, son of **Julian** and **Naty Pua** of Los Baños, Laguna, will exchange vows with **Nenette C. David**, daughter of **Ben** and **Sofia David** of Hagonoy, Bulacan, on Jan. 20 at Sta. Ana Parish Church. Reception will follow at Puso ng Hagonoy. Danganan Catering will provide the food.

PADUA-LARGO

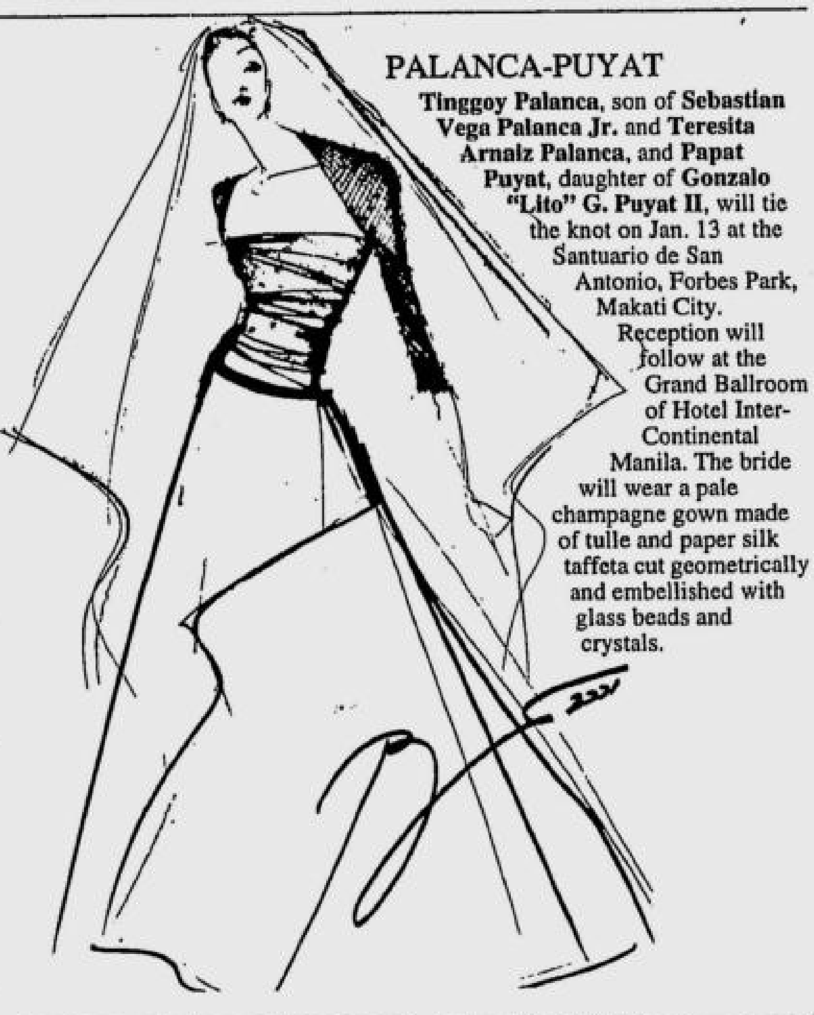
Air Force pilot Lt. **Augusto N. Padua**, son of **Fausto** and **Mary Padua**, will wed BTI Philippines Marsman executive **Gilda Din Largo**, daughter of **Gil** and **Erlinda Largo**, at the San Agustin Church in Intramuros on Jan.15. Reception will follow at the Coconut Palace.

ACASIO-GARCIA

Nilma V. Garcia, daughter of **Moreno** and **Norma Garcia**, will exchange vows with **Arman M. Acasio**, son of **Herminio** and **Honorata Acasio**, on Jan. 20 at the Lemery Parish Church. Reception will follow at the bride's residence on Rizal Street, Lemery, Batangas.

NACIONALES-SABILE

Angel M. Nacionales, son of **Antonio L. Nacionales** and the late **Angela M. Nacionales**, and **Sheila Marie T. Sabile**, daughter of **Alvin** and **Teresita T. Sabile**, will exchange vows at St. Pancratius Chapel, Paco Park, Manila on Jan. 20. Reception will follow at the Manila Midtown Hotel. The bride will wear a corset shantung silk gown designed by **Gino** of Drezzee.



PALANCA-PUYAT

Tinggoy Palanca, son of **Sebastian Vega Palanca Jr.** and **Teresita Arnaiz Palanca**, and **Papat Puyat**, daughter of **Gonzalo "Lito" G. Puyat II**, will tie the knot on Jan. 13 at the Santuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park, Makati City. Reception will follow at the Grand Ballroom of Hotel Inter-Continental Manila. The bride will wear a pale champagne gown made of tulle and paper silk taffeta cut geometrically and embellished with glass beads and crystals.

NOLASCO-DEMAVIBAS

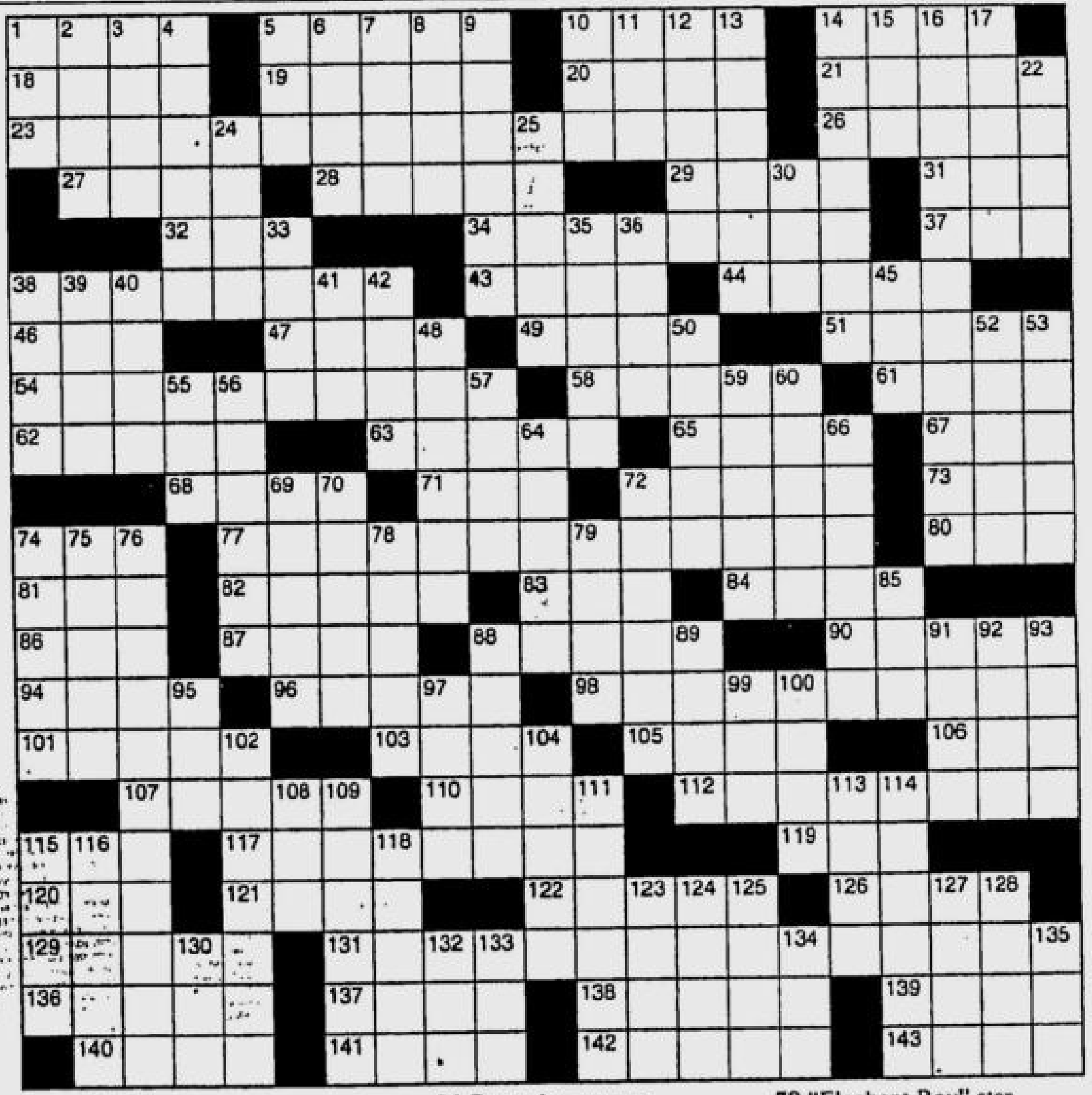
Virgilio Nacito Nolasco, son of lawyer **Reynaldo** and **Naomi Nolasco**, will wed Dr. **Maria Anna Chiquita Pabilona Demavibas**, daughter of **Ramon** and **Andrea Demavibas**, on Jan. 20 at Sta. Ana Shrine Parish Church. Rev. Fr. **Henry Campeon** will officiate. Reception will follow at the Grand Ballroom, Apo View Hotel, Davao City. **Utoy Mercado** of Kasuotan designed the bride's gown.

LOON-WEE

Jaime L. Loon and **Angelie L. Wee** will exchange matrimonial vows on Jan. 20 at the Sta. Maria Church, Zamboanga City. Jaime is the son of **Bernardo** and **Carlota Loon** while Angelie is the daughter of **Lydia L. Tan**. Reception will be held at the Grand Astoria Hotel.

SUNDAY CROSSWORD

ROSE GARDEN



ACROSS

1 "— it the truth?"
5 Restrain
10 Conduit fittings
14 Active volcano
18 "The Green —" ('56 hit)
19 Victorian ornament
20 Rachel's sister
21 TV's "The Wonder —"
23 Guns n' Roses hit
26 — nous
27 Soprano Gluck
28 "— a day's work"
29 Sleuth Nancy
31 Herriman's "Krazy —"
32 Mythical monster
34 In flight
37 Adjective suffix
38 One of "The Three Tenors"
43 Rock's — & the Gang
44 Pine
46 Kimono cummerbund
47 Interrogates
49 Cranny's companion
51 Toomey or Philbin
54 Rose Nylund's portrayer
58 Okefenokee, for one
61 Skin problem
62 Irwin of "The Crocodile Hunter"
63 '78 Peace Nobelist
65 Pestiferous person
67 Unmatched
68 Went like hotcakes
71 Apprehend
72 Cumin or coriander
73 Stretch the truth
74 Health concern
77 Billy Rose song
80 Organ of equilibrium
81 Poetic pot
82 Reference volume
83 Patriotic org.
84 Prepare prunes
86 Bar supply
87 Linguist Chomsky
88 Scope
90 Unbroken
94 "Divine Comedy" figure
96 Caroline, to Ted
98 "The Name of the Rose" author
101 Send the money
103 Salt serving
105 — Alto, CA
106 Dover's st.
107 Fight site
110 Temporary wealth?
112 Butcher's offering
115 "The — and I" ('47 film)
117 "Fait —"
119 Ending for "auction"
120 Sought office
121 Penny or peseta
122 Wrong
126 Architect Saarinen
129 Conductor Seiji
131 Rose McGowan movie
136 Murcia mister
137 Take — the chin
138 Spring for
139 Actress Ward
140 Live on lettuce
141 Bean on the bean
142 Hope's "The Prisoner of —"
143 North Carolina campus

DOWN

1 Pitches
2 Where the tall corn grows
3 Gallagher of Oasis
4 Aftershock
5 New Deal agcy.
6 "Very funny!"
7 Runner Zatopek
8 Room without a view?
9 Alaskan bear
10 Shady character?
11 Wahine's wreath
12 Joe of "Dr. Quinn"
13 '62 Four Seasons hit
14 Glasses
15 Dress size
16 "Ramblin' Rose" singer
17 Stage backdrop
22 Clockmaker Thomas
24 Grocer's measure
25 Tearjerker?
30 Vane letters
33 Gullet
35 Perch
36 Run through
38 Male swans
39 Help a hood
40 Formal ceremony
41 — blond
42 Goes downhill fast?
45 Stephen of "Interview with the Vampire"
48 Loses a lap
50 Phi Beta —
52 79 Down's homeland
53 Passover meal
55 Watching machines?
56 Petty officer
57 Dairy-case purchase
59 "Upstairs, Downstairs" extras
60 Ornamental loop
64 Gulf
66 Most revolutionary
69 Divulge
70 — Lama
72 Cocktail ingredient
74 It makes candy dandy
75 Austen title start
76 "The Rose Tattoo" actress
78 Christened
79 "Elephant Boy" star
85 Wine and dine
88 Moral man?
89 Stowe sight
91 A swan was her swain
92 Summertime treats
93 Lamebrain
95 Russian space station
97 Tranquil
99 Lilly of pharmaceuticals
100 Morning wear
102 4 p.m. vehicle?
104 Muslim dietary term
108 Sgt. or cpl.
109 Like lemons
111 WWII admiral
113 Shorten a sail
114 Threat words
115 Desire deified
116 Looked longingly
118 — a customer
123 Concerning
124 Lightweight gun
125 Large herring
127 Whirl
128 Christiania, today
130 Affliction
132 Wolfram — Eschenbach
133 Squid's squirt
134 "Wings" abbr.
135 Solo of "Star Wars"

ANSWER ON PAGE E7

TUANQUI-DE LUNA

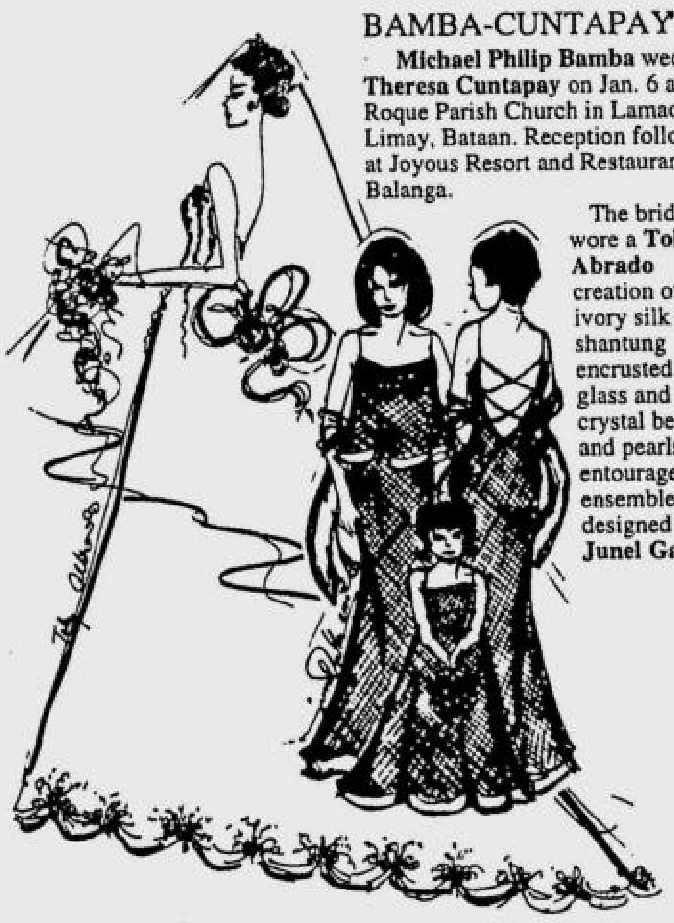
Eric V. Tuanqui wed **Rose V. de Luna** on Dec. 23 at Sto. Domingo Church, QC. Reception followed at Annabel's.

UMALI-LAURESTE

Rodolfo M. Umali Jr., son of **Rodolfo Sr.** and **Vicky Umali**, and **Marian M. Laureste**, daughter of Mr. and Ms **Marcelo Laureste**, exchanged vows on Dec. 8 at Miraculous Medal Chapel. Reception followed at Bulwagang Makulot, FAB, Lipa City.

CASTILLO-MAGSINO

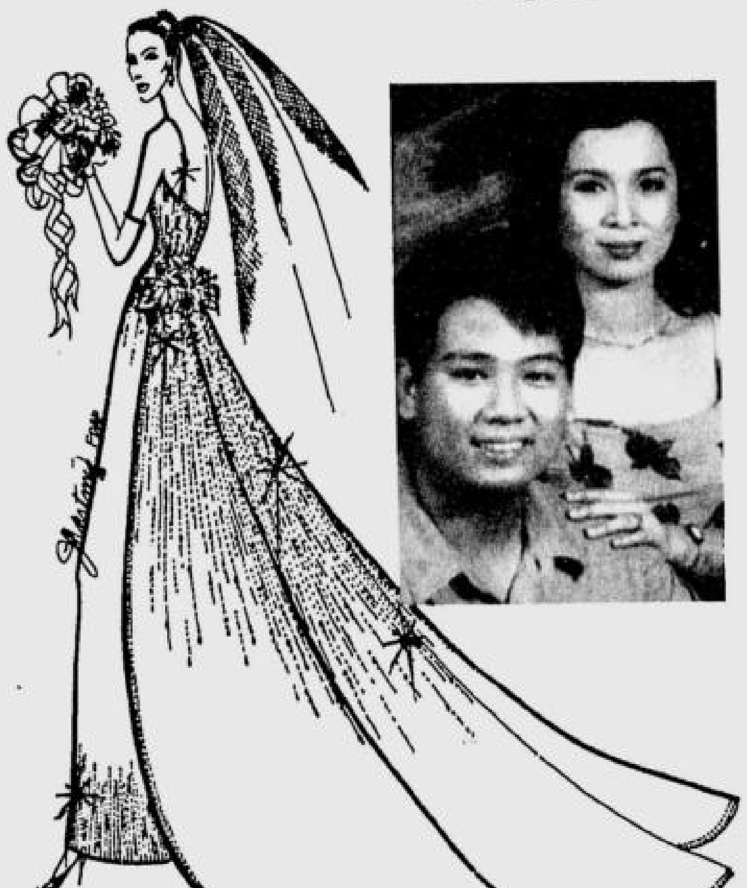
Engineer **Benjamin B. Castillo**, son of engineer **Renato** and **Angelina Castillo**, exchanged vows with **Gladys Magsino**, daughter of **Juanita Magsino** and the late **Julian Magsino**, on Jan. 6 at the Janopol Oriental Parish Church, Tanauan,



BAMBA-CUNTAPAY

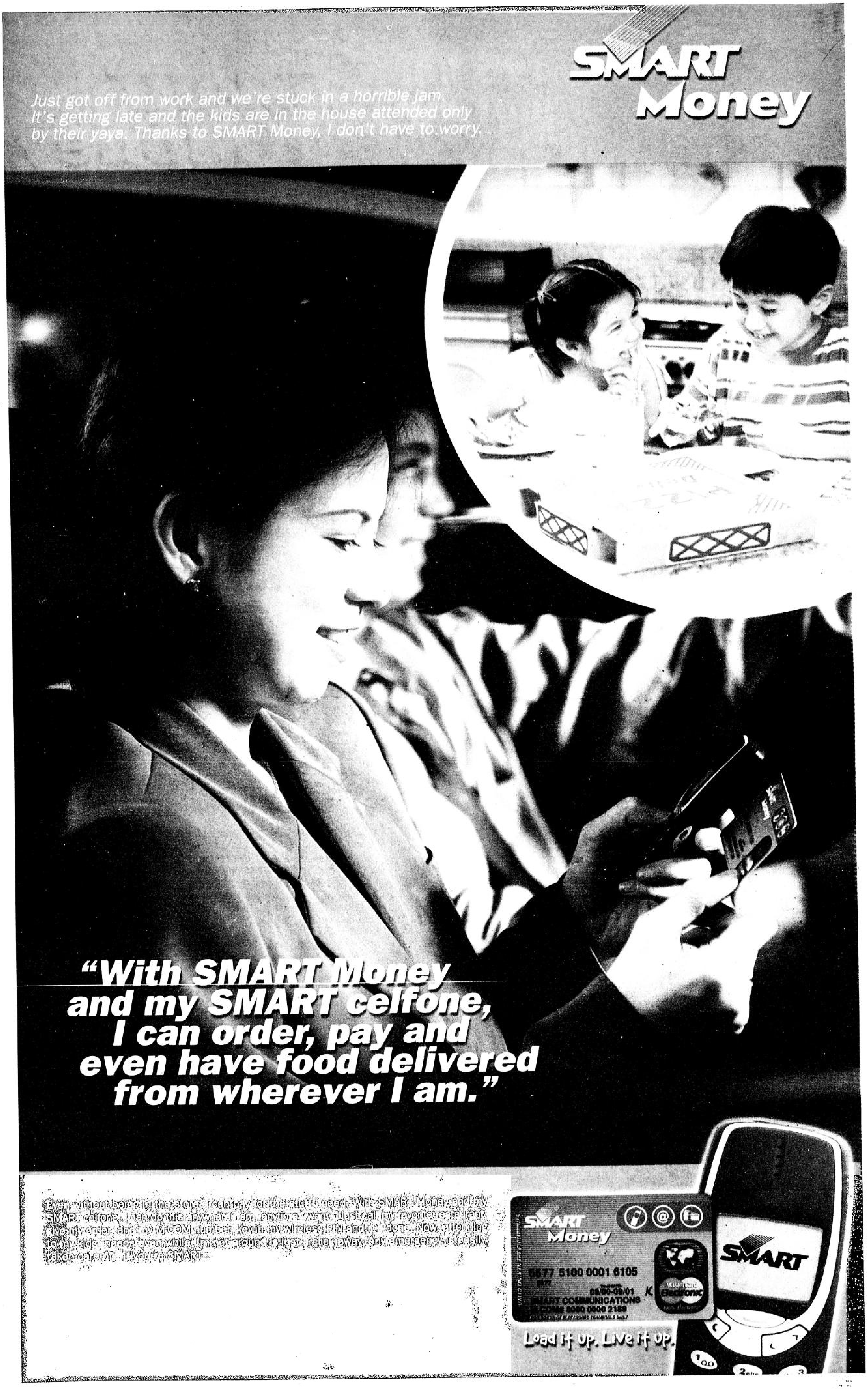
Michael Philip Bamba wed **Ma. Theresa Cuntapay** on Jan. 6 at San Roque Parish Church in Lamao, Limay, Bataan. Reception followed at Joyous Resort and Restaurant in Balanga.

The bride wore a **Tobby Abrado** creation of ivory silk shantung encrusted with glass and crystal beads and pearls. Her entourage wore ensembles designed by **Junel Gallon**.



BALETE-GUTIERREZ

Jay Balete, son of **Joey** and **Sen Balete**, wed **Leila Gutierrez**, daughter of **Ernesto** and **Lilia Gutierrez**, on Dec. 23 at the Manila Cathedral. Leila wore an off-white shantung spaghetti-strapped gown with a detachable train, and beaded with gold and ecru cut-glass beads and minute pearls. **Jontie** and **Nicky Martinez** of Galatea designed the gown.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because I want to have fun.

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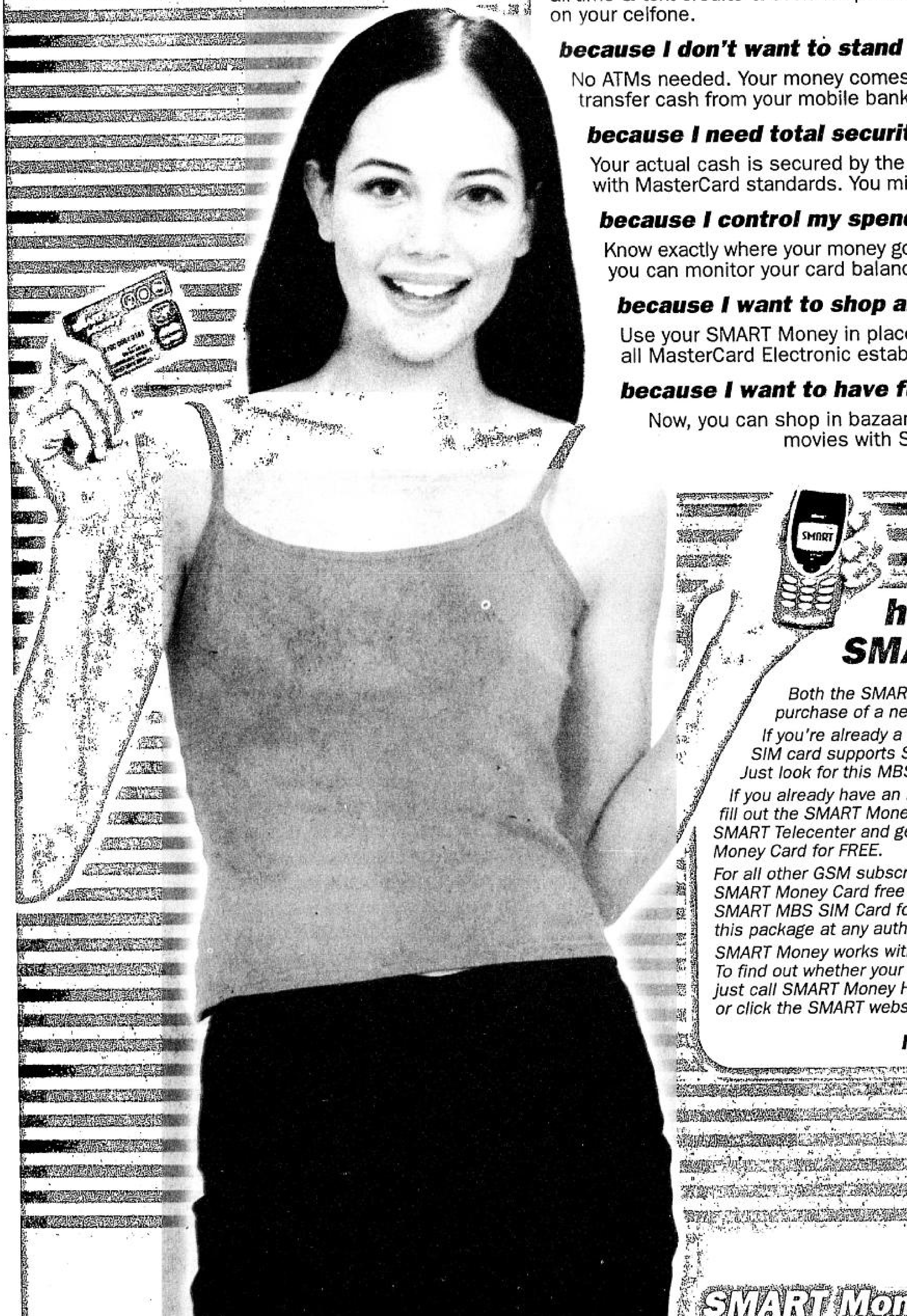

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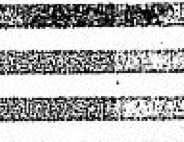

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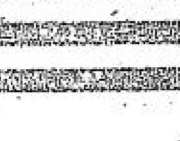

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SMART Money

how do I use my SMART Money?

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How do I activate my cash card?

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step 2
Key in your 12-digit MCOM number found on your SMART Money card and press OK.

step 3
Key in your default W-PIN (123456) and press OK.

step 4
You will receive a confirmation message and be advised to change your W-PIN to protect your SMART Money.

How do I load cash into my SMART Money?

To reload over the counter:

step 1
You can put any amount in your SMART Money card through SMART Money Loading Centers.

step 2
Upon receiving cash, the cashier swipes your card and gives you a transaction record.

step 3
Now your SMART Money is loaded and you're ready to go! For maximum reloading convenience, use your celfone to load cash in your SMART Money card straight from your Mobile Bank Account.

How do I load airtime and text credits on my SMART Buddy celfone?

step 1
Go to the SMART MENU and select SMART BUDDY.

step 2
Select RELOAD and press OK.

step 3
If you want to reload your own SMART Buddy celfone, select MY BUDDY and press OK. If you want to reload another celfone, select OTHERS, key in the recipient's SMART Buddy celfone number and press OK.

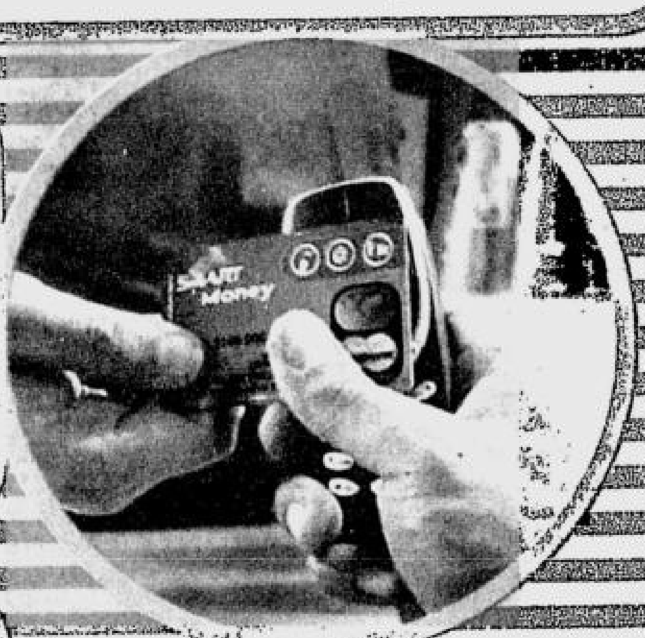
step 4
Key in your W-PIN and press OK.

step 5
You and the recipient will receive a text message confirming the amount successfully loaded.

how do I make a purchase?

Your card must be activated and loaded with cash value before it can be used to purchase goods and services. Simply present your SMART Money to the cashier. The cashier swipes your SMART Money and you'll receive a sales slip. Sign it, and you're off!

For deliveries, simply call the store, place your orders and give your MCOM number. You'll then receive a text message to confirm your purchase. Authorize your transaction with your W-PIN and you're done!



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5. You will receive a text confirmation and you're done!

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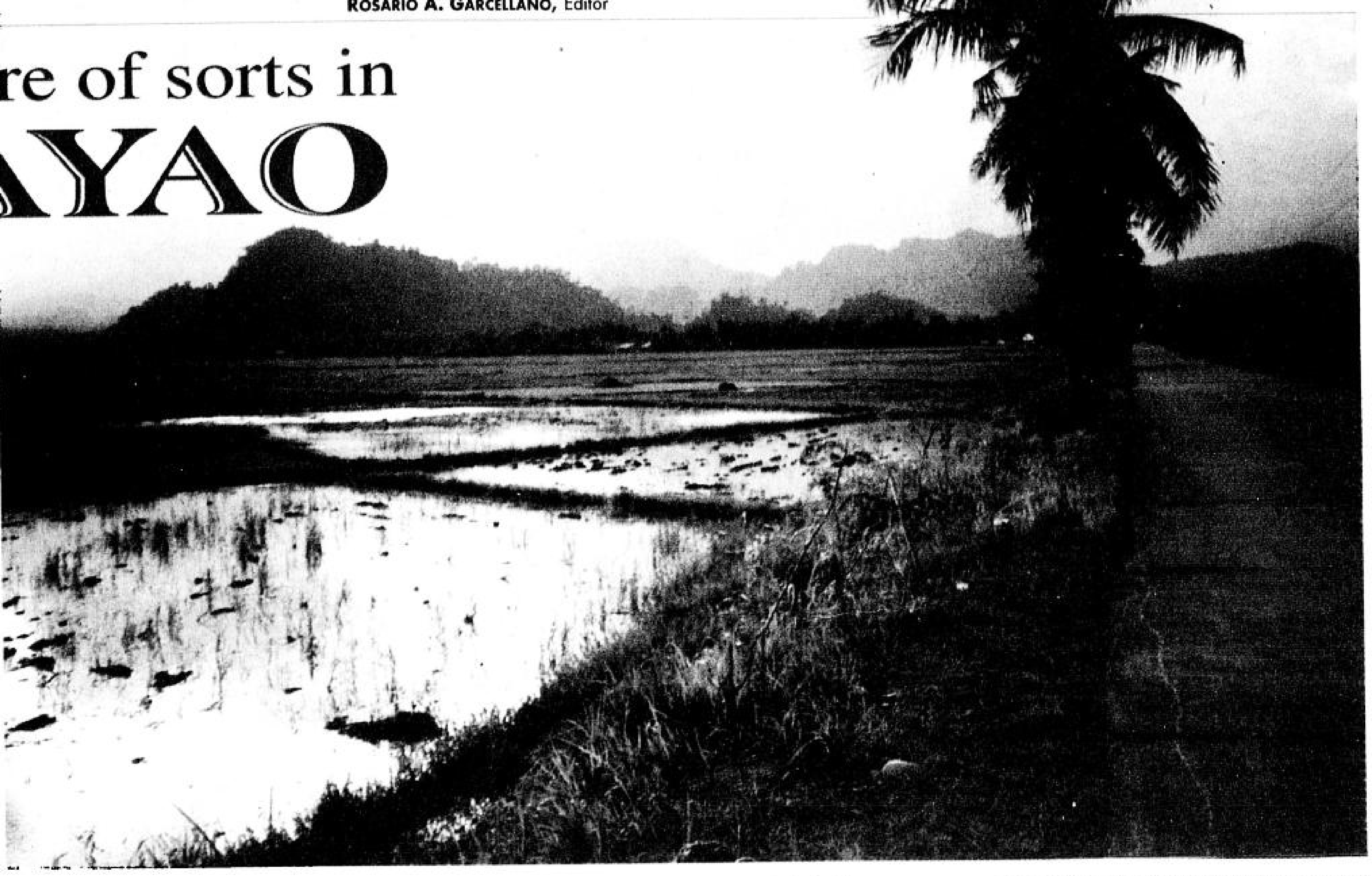
TRAVEL

ROSARIO A. GARCELLANO, Editor

An adventure of sorts in APAYAO

TEXT AND PHOTOS
BY AMADÍS MA. GUERRERO



THE LANDLOCKED province of Apayao, ancestral home of the indigenous Isnegs, had been on my mind for some time, mainly because it was the only province in the Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR) that I had yet to visit as of early December. (I have been to Abra, Benguet, Ifugao, Kalinga and Mountain Province.)

Apayao lies way up in the north, bracketed by Ilocos Norte and Cagayan, with Abra and Kalinga bringing up the rear. In the mountains, the way of life remains unchanged. The Isnegs are skilled hunters and fishermen who keep their catch in wooden baskets, and who are devoted to the fine art of tattooing, like the Kalingas. They live in traditional houses with long floors and triangular roofs, with granaries in between.

There are other tribes in the upland areas apart from the Isnegs, like the Ibalois. And tribal wars break out from time to time, resulting in killings which are largely unreported in the press.

The capital of the province is Kabugao, scene of recent landslides that claimed lives. Another key town, farther north, is Luna, where a number of government offices are located and where a new Provincial Capitol is being constructed, leading to the speculation that Luna may replace Kabugao as the capital.

I first attempted to visit Apayao during a tour of Cagayan and Kalinga early in 1999, but had to cut my trip short. Last November, a planned visit to the province had to be postponed because I was afflicted with flu. (And to think a Pajero was waiting for me at the Department of Environment and Natural Resources regional office in Tuguegarao City!)

Finally, early in December, with new arrangements having been made, I was off to Apayao. I took the long trip (12 hours) by bus (travelers may choose between Baliwag and Victory lines) to Tuguegarao City, capital of Cagayan and entry point to Kalinga and Apayao, which became separate provinces in 1995.

The bus passed through the McArthur Highway and Cagayan Valley Road, covering four big provinces: Bulacan, Nueva Ecija (with its perennial traffic), Nueva Vizcaya and Isabela.

The following day in Tuguegarao, after a rest at an inexpensive hotel (Crown), I paid a courtesy call on DENR Regional Executive Director Alfredo Pascual. That done, we—Dante Ancheta, Cagayan Valley public affairs officer and occasional contributor to the INQUIRER, driver Jimmy Juliana and myself—were off.

It is three hours by vehicle from Tuguegarao to Luna in Apayao, passing through Cagayan's smooth northern highway. Along the way, Alcala's all-brick church (one of many interesting churches in Cagayan), caught my attention, as did a DENR-reforested area, the trees and the dense foliage bracketing the Maharlika Highway (a unique sight in that part of the province).

In Lal-lo is the Magapit Suspension Bridge, said to be the first of its kind in Asia. It links the first two districts of Cagayan, and leads to Ilocos Norte.

The entrance to Luna, backdropped by the sculptural welcome arch made of wood, was dramatic. Hiding behind a mass of dark clouds, the sun shone, its Marian-like rays cascading upon the fields and hills.

There were irrigated fields, trees and plants, low-lying hills, a few houses and, in the distance, misty mountains with different contours and peaks. One flora-covered mound reminded me of the caves in Quirino.

The visit to Apayao, however, turned out to be an exercise in frustration—perhaps, to no one's particular fault. Read on.

At the Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office (Penro), only one staffer was holding the fort and he wasn't expecting us. It turned out that the office did not receive the radio message from the CAR Center in Baguio City, announcing our arrival, because of the poor communication in the province (or perhaps the radio was switched off).

ABOVE, sylvan landscape of irrigated fields, low-lying hills and misty mountains; left, wooden arch welcoming the traveler to Luna; below, flora-covered mound looming.

The Penro main man was attending a training program, and the officer-in-charge was out on official business. So I decided to interview the community environment and natural resources officer instead. But his office was even more out of the way, with bad roads that were partly flooded, so we dropped the idea of an interview.

An interview with the governor, perhaps? Two policemen directed us to the adjoining town, Pudtol, which was 12 kilometers away, with portions of the dirt road under construction. Soon the AUV was splattered with mud, and, as the song goes, a-rockin' and a-rollin'.

I could only marvel at the stamina of driver Jimmy as he negotiated the terrain, for only a few hours ago he had arrived from a trip to Metro Manila (a round trip, at that).

We then undertook a fruitless search for the governor. He was not at home, we were told, he was at the "office," meaning in this case the Municipal Hall. But he was not there either. He was going back to his house, we were informed, for there were visitors. (Could those visitors be us?) We waited some more outside his home, were offered coffee, but Gov was ultimately a no-show.

Maybe I could interview the mayor, the vice mayor, the municipal tourism officer? But the mayor, a friendly finance staffer at the Municipal Hall informed us, had declared a holiday because it was the town's Foundation Day.

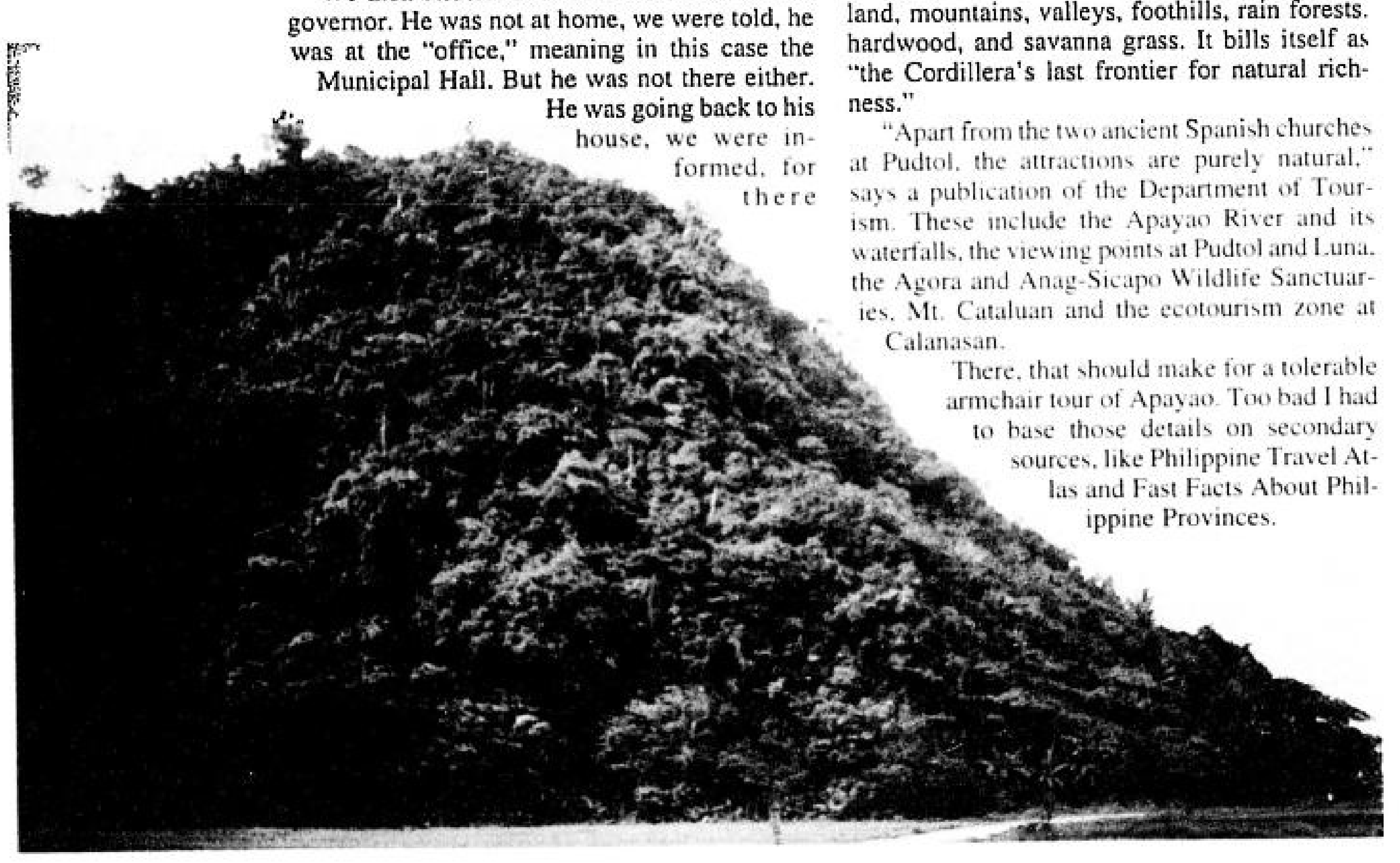
At this point I gave up, and we drove back to Tuguegarao. Guilt-stricken over the inconvenience I had caused Dante and Jimmy, not to mention the gasoline consumed at the expense of Region II, I treated them to a Chinese dinner in the city.

This kind of contretemps shouldn't get in the way of a visit to Apayao, which, I understand, is an exciting destination for adventure tourism. like Kalinga.

Apayao is a province of large tracts of flat land, mountains, valleys, foothills, rain forests. hardwood, and savanna grass. It bills itself as "the Cordillera's last frontier for natural richness."

"Apart from the two ancient Spanish churches at Pudtol, the attractions are purely natural," says a publication of the Department of Tourism. These include the Apayao River and its waterfalls, the viewing points at Pudtol and Luna, the Agora and Anag-Sicapo Wildlife Sanctuaries, Mt. Cataluan and the ecotourism zone at Calanasan.

There, that should make for a tolerable armchair tour of Apayao. Too bad I had to base those details on secondary sources, like Philippine Travel Atlas and Fast Facts About Philippine Provinces.



LUXURY IN THE SKY

A redesigned First cabin, which sets new standards for luxury travel, is the culmination of British Airways' biggest program so far to improve service and products. BA unveiled the First product, including dishes served on Wedgewood bone china and state-of-the-art seats that convert to fully flat beds, at a glittering launch in London.

Valuable help for women on the road

A 30-PAGE guide produced by Canada's Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade offers a suitcase full of advice for women travelers.

This updated publication, first released in 1998, is titled "Her Own Way: Advice for the Woman Traveler."

It was designed to help women handle a variety of problems and issues that stand apart from the normal situations faced by people traveling overseas.

Evelyn Hannon, a consultant specializing in women and travel issues, produced "Her Own Way."

The handy guide covers everything from lessening the cultural shock to packing properly; from security to staying healthy; from avoiding harassment to coping with foreign bathrooms; and lots more.

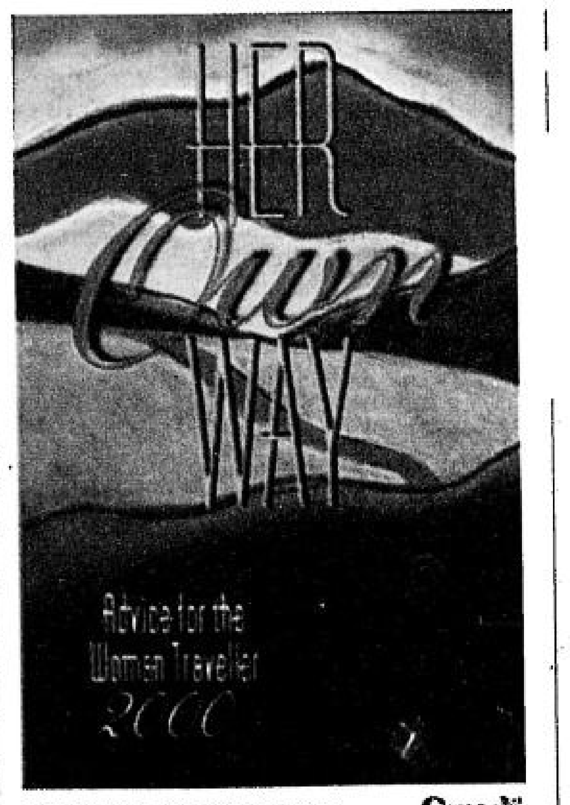
Other chapters include: Travel Light, Travel Smart; Extra Security Makes Sense; Air Travel; Accommodation; Networking along the Way; Dress Sense.

Alone after Sundown; Maintaining Connections; Health Tips for the Woman Globetrotter; The Pregnant Traveler; Traveling with Children; International Adoptions; The Older Traveler; Businesswomen Abroad; References, Resources and Recommended Reading.

For free copies of this guide, write to: Enquiries Service, Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, 125 Sussex Drive, Ottawa, ON K1A 0G2.

You may also call (613) 944-4000, e-mail: voyage@dfait-maeci.gc.ca, or download "Her Own Way" from DFAIT's web site at http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca, then Travel, then Publications, then at bottom, "Her Own Way."

Richard Pennick



HANDY 30-page guide for women traveling overseas

She has promised to marry him, but she doesn't love him anymore

LOVE NOTES

Joe D' Mango

DEAR Joe,

MAR and I met right after graduation when we were reviewing for the board exams. He had a girlfriend at that time and from the way he talked about her, I could tell he really wasn't serious with her. We became close. I wasn't looking for a relationship at that time, having just gotten out of a serious one right after graduation. But Mar broke off with his girlfriend and pursued me. I knew I liked him, but I was not sure if I loved him. I enjoyed his company and found it easy to confide to him. I told him the reason I split up with my ex-boyfriend, that my ex was insecure, overly sensitive, possessive and a little irresponsible. It did not seem to be the case with Mar.

Mar is an immigrant and he was going to leave for the United States right after board exams. I never gave him a concrete answer if I loved him or not or that I would still be free if he came back. Everything was uncertain when he left. He wrote to me every day for the four months that he was away. I fell for the caring, responsible, patient and loving person that he was. When he came back, we became a couple.

But, little by little, I discovered his other side. I saw that he was insecure most of the time, possessive, impatient and untrusting—everything I hated in my ex-boyfriend. But he was loving and very attentive to me. So I endured all his shortcomings as he would endure my moods and stubbornness. But I felt suffocated by too much attention from him.

He was about to leave for the US again, something I looked forward to. Finally, I would have time alone. But before Mar left, I promised him that we'd get married after about two years.

That was my mistake, Joe. I knew there were some things I hated in him and that I could not live with. My mother would always tell me, "Never expect someone to change for the better when you marry him, because there's a big possibility that he won't change and this will break your heart."

He has been away for more than six months now and I find myself attracted to other men. I'm not sweet to him anymore when we talk on the phone and I cannot say "I love you" anymore. I know he has observed this and I know I should be honest with him, but I hate the thought of breaking his heart.

I know I should tell him the truth. The problem is how do I explain to him, to my family (who adores him), to our friends, to his family and to almost everyone.

I know I'd hurt him, but I also know it is wrong to continue with the charade. Please tell me how I would break it to him gently.

ANGEL

It is true that the only thing constant in this world is change. Not even love can last forever. There are times when we are overwhelmed by our attraction toward someone. This grows beyond our capacity to differentiate between liking and loving. How can we like someone if we don't have the element of love in it and how can we love someone if we don't even like that person?

Though liking and loving are similar in many ways, they are still worlds apart. When we like someone, there is always a physical dimension to that. But we can learn to love someone who has fallen short of our physical expectations. We can love with our eyes closed but we can like only the things we see.

Angel, you have gotten yourself into a commitment based on what you have perceived Mar to be. But he unexpectedly turned out to be exactly like your ex-boyfriend—impatient, possessive and untrusting. But now, you have already made a promise that you might not be able to keep forever.

Marrying him in two years was something you just probably said out of confusion. But, it certainly didn't come from the heart. It was a promise you made not out of love but out of an obligation. You have given Mar the false hope of waiting for something, which isn't there anymore. Breaking that promise would surely break his heart.

I believe that you don't have much of an option but to be true to what you feel. You simply have to be honest in telling him that you don't feel the same anymore. It is just rather selfish because you are going to do this for yourself, more than anyone else.

It is sad because sometimes, the people we love most are the ones who are going to hurt us most. But life is just full of surprises. Love doesn't always have happy endings. It is a reality that we have to face and endure. I just hope, Angel, that for whatever it is worth, breaking up with Mar would finally give you the peace of mind and the freedom you want.

I also hope that this would serve as a lesson: that love should not be based on what a person is or what he is not. Love should not measure what someone has or doesn't have. Love is something that we should give because we want to give it and not because we hope to get something in return. Let us always remember that only when we make relationships out of love can we have the chance to keep it and make it last forever.

E-mail the author at lovenotes@amanet.net or send letters c/o dwTM Unit 907, Paragon Plaza, Edsa, Mandaluyong City.

BRENDA with Larrie Silva and (seated, from left) Susie Bayot Ortigas, Jennifer Leviste and Josie de los Santos. Other guests not in picture were Baby Durano and Carol JimenezViol Cojuangco and Baby Girl Frieke.

Homecoming celebration

BRENDA Q. Hefron who, for a long time, was US-based, thought there was a whole lot of reason for celebrating and so she invited a few close friends for dinner one evening. The food, everybody agreed, was excellent, but the real piece de resistance were the funny stories each one had to tell.

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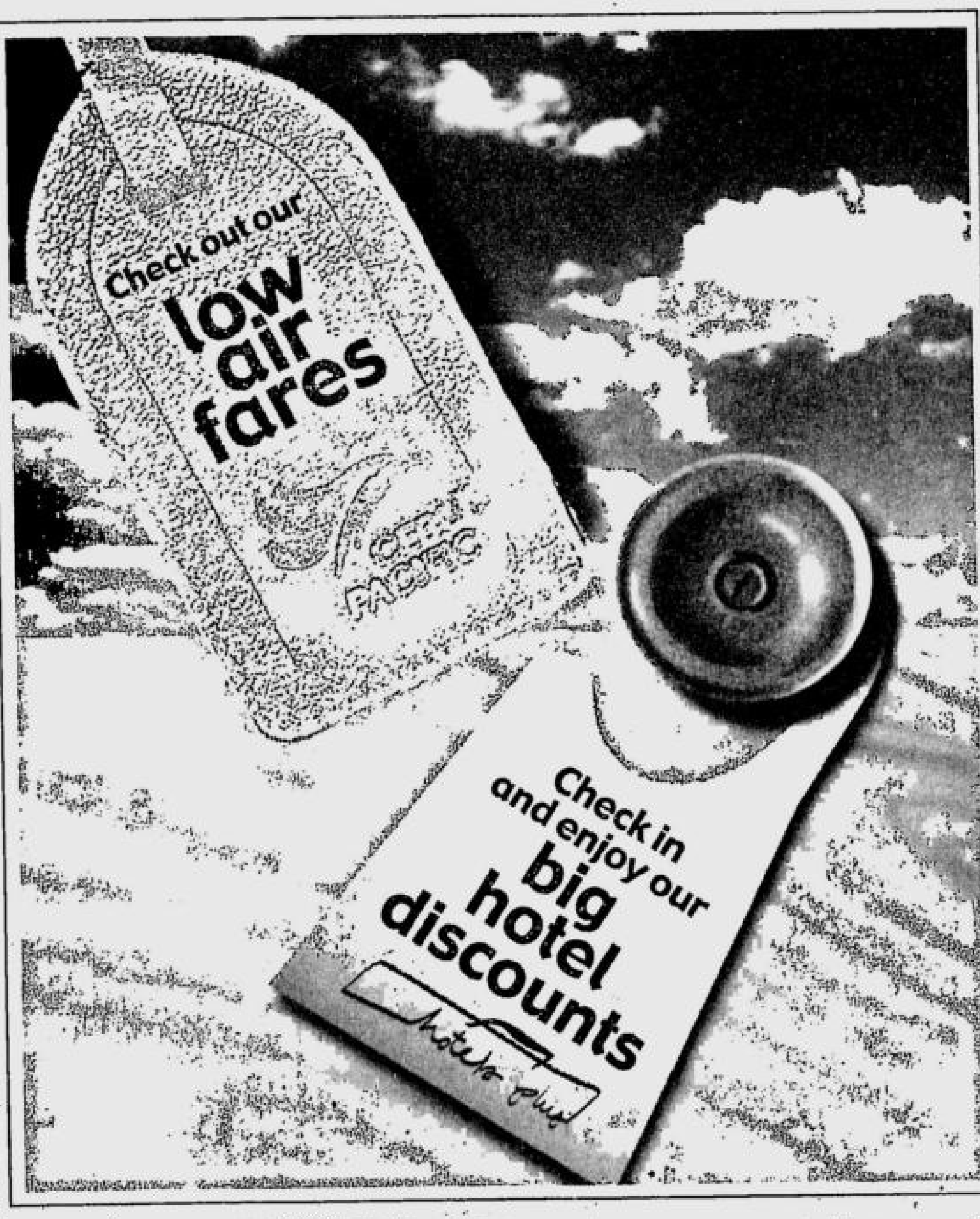
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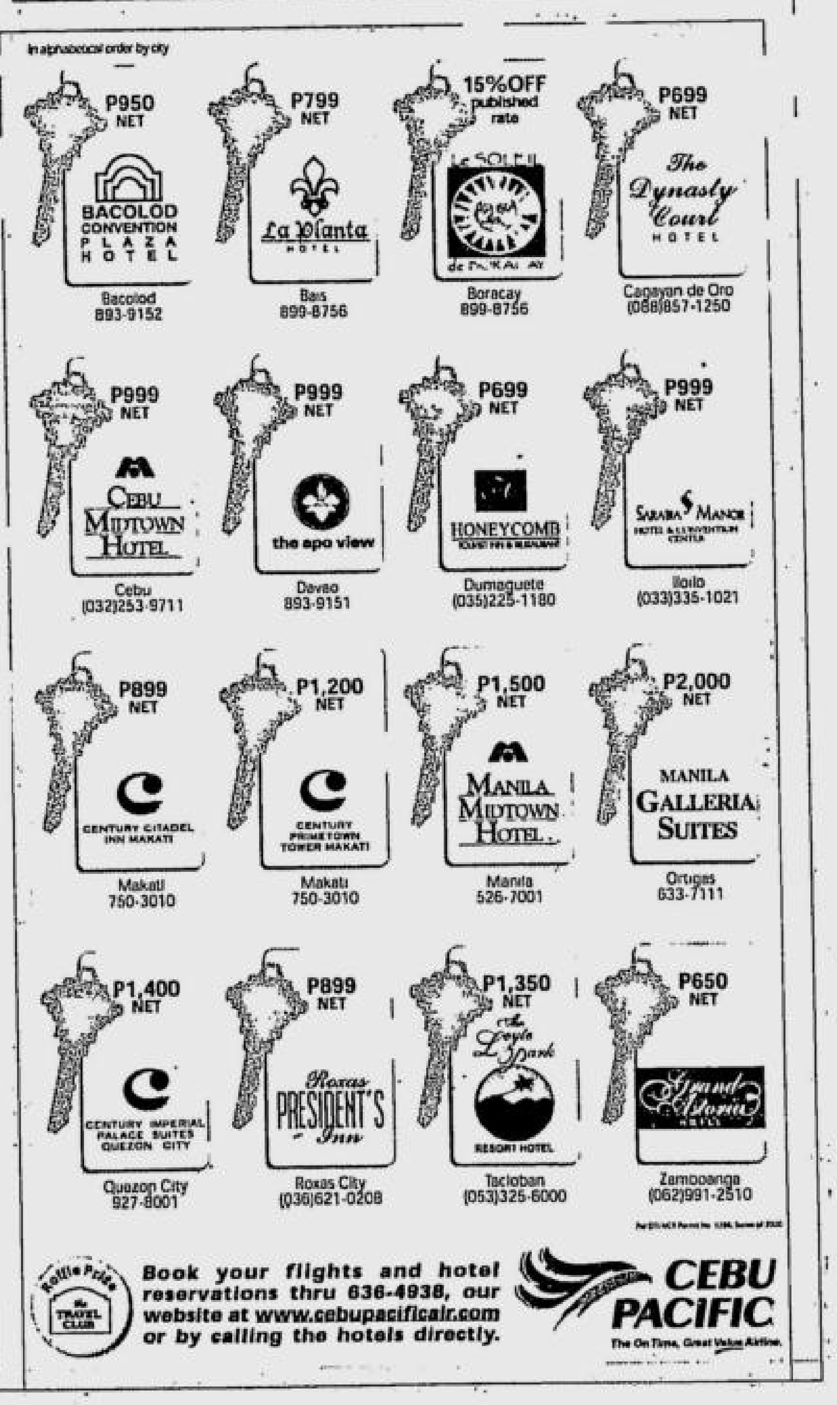

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(From page E1)

LOVELY bride Maria Tricia Guiua in a gown by Michelle Sison

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1. **HR Policy Development and Implementation**
2. **Compensation and Benefits**
3. **Organization and Job Design**
4. **Provides technical support to the HRD Manager in improving the HRD systems and prepares proposal for review of the HRD Manager.**
5. **Prepares draft letters/proposals for special projects as per instruction from the HRD Manager.**

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1. **Training and Development**
   - Conducts training need analyses (TNA) for all NRS.
   - Reviews, consolidates and finalizes all TNA responses.
   - Determines training and development interventions to be offered by identifying learning needs of individuals and groups to ensure that knowledge, skills and attitude requirements are being met.
   - Coordinates training programs offered by external resource persons by identifying, inviting and briefing resource persons who can provide fresh perspectives, share their expertise and widen the source of knowledge and skills of participants.
   - Coordinates all in-house training programs and monitors documentation of attendance to training.
2. **Career Planning and Development**
   - Provides technical support to the HRD Manager in the implementation of career development programs for all NRS positions by analyzing positions and developing career paths for each position.
   - Maintains and monitors a database of the skills, abilities and experience of employees.
   - Coordinates with D/C/U heads or supervisors to identify employees for possible promotion by providing the right information about the employee.
   - Gives professional guidance to the D/C/U head or supervisor on staff development, such as the type of training needed, what type of job best suits the staff and what objectives are to be set.
   - Maintains and monitors a database of employees' performance based on their respective career paths
3. **Performance Management**
   - Provides performance evaluation and development forms to D/C/U heads.
   - Monitors submission of accomplished forms.
   - Reviews the NRS (Nationally Recruited Staff) spreadsheets submitted by D/C/U heads to check the accuracy of computations and concordance with salary adjustment guidelines.
   - Prepares reports on salary adjustment of employees for submission to the HRD Manager.
   - Submits reports and graphs on the distribution of performance ratings and salary adjustments in each D/C/U and across the institute for analysis and interpretation by the HRD Manager.
4. **Organization Development**
   - Provides technical support to the HRD Manager in conducting organizational diagnosis by using questionnaires or interviews about the institute's internal resources such as people, structure, system, strategy, employee's knowledge, skills and attitude, shared values.
   - Consolidates information gathered and submits report to the HRD Manager.
5. **Assists the HRD Manager in the conduct of special projects/studies and coordinates activities in the implementation of said projects.**

➢ **Qualified applicants will be notified by telegram, e-mail or by phone.**

➢ **Place of Assignment : Los Baños, Laguna**

✓ Interested applicants should send their résumé, transcript of records, three references, and a recent 2x2-inch photo no later than *19 January 2001* to:

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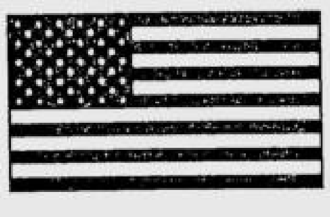

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An international company engaged in Global Direct Mail with its regional headquarters based in Madrigal Business Park, Ayala Alabang, Muntinlupa City is seeking the following

GENERAL MANAGER

- Graduate of any business course from a reputable university
- With at least 5 years experience gained in a managerial position in direct mail, brand or account management from a multinational company
- With hands-on experience in administrative supervision
- Able to operate in a global business culture
- Must possess strong communication and organization skills
- Creative, flexible, aggressive and personable
- Firm and decisive leader who can rally an entire organization towards common goals and objectives

ACCOUNTING MANAGER

- CPA, preferably 3 to 5 years experience in an auditing firm or multinational company
- Above average verbal and written communication skills
- Computer literate
- Willing to work long hours

Please send a full c.v. with photo, date of birth, covering letter stating why we should hire you and expected salary to:

Suite 801, Alabang Business Tower
1216 Acacia Avenue, Madrigal Business Park
Ayala Alabang, Muntinlupa 1780
Fax: 807 1550 Email: mla@info.com.ph

Roche

Who we are

We are a leading healthcare company with headquarters in Basel, Switzerland and with subsidiaries worldwide. Our business is dedicated to the discovery, research, production and marketing of high quality healthcare products. Operating successfully in the Philippines for over 35 years, we are proud to be one of the most stable multinational companies in the country today.

We seek to employ:

Artist

(Application code: ART)

The Position

The main responsibilities include visual conceptualization, design and execution of artworks for product literature, display booths, brochures, labels, packaging, posters and other artwork requirements of the company within lead time.

Who you are

Preferably with a college degree in Fine Arts, you must have at least 3 years experience as commercial artist. Samples of your artwork will be required during the interview. Computer literate and proficient in CorelDraw, Adobe PhotoShop, Adobe Illustrator, PageMaker, MS Word, Excel, PowerPoint and other similar programs. Articulate and able to relate with different levels of employees.

Logistics Staff

(Application Code: LOG)

The Position

Reporting to the Controller of the Diagnostics Division, the primary function calls for providing efficient and effective administrative support in inventory, importation, sales and invoicing transactions.

Who you are

To qualify, you must be an Accounting graduate with at least 2 years experience in the areas described above. Knowledge and exposure to importation procedures a definite advantage. You must be computer literate and proficient in MS Word, Excel, PowerPoint. Ideal candidates are articulate, systematic, thorough and accurate with details. Female, preferably single and not over 30 years of age.

Secretary

(Application Code: HRS)

The Position

Reporting to the Human Resources Director, the main function calls for providing efficient and effective secretarial and administrative support to the HR Department.

Who you are

The ideal candidate must be a college graduate with at least 3 years secretarial experience. Proficiency in MS Office programs, outstanding interpersonal skills, facility in oral and written English communications are required. Systematic and organized, with a keen eye for details and can work well with minimum supervision. Female, preferably single and not over 30 years of age.

Who to Contact

Submit your resumé with recent passport size picture and contact telephone number no later than Friday, 12 January 2001 to:

The Human Resources Department
Application Code: ___________
Roche (Philippines) Inc.
2252 Don Chino Roces Avenue, Makati City

Only qualified candidates will be called for interview.

A prestigious financial institution based in Makati accepts qualified applicants for the following positions:

One (1) FINANCIAL ANALYST

- Possesses strong credit skills
- Mathematics or Statistics major
- 25-28 years old
- Computer literate
- Civil Service eligible

One (1) JUNIOR OFFICER

- Adequate exposure to credit
- Knowledge in Mathematics and Statistics
- Computer literate
- 30-35 years old
- Civil Service eligible

Please mail applications to
P.O. Box 1996
Makati Central Post Office 1200

UBX

***U-BIX CORPORATION**, a leading provider of office equipment, furniture and related office services, has openings for ---*

SALES MANAGER (PDI-SM)

- Not over 35 years old; MBA degree or units a definite plus
- At least 5 years proven track record in sales; preferably gained from distribution of office-related products, systems, equipment or acquired from IT industry
- Knowledge in sales planning activities is required; priority will be given to those with brand management exposure
- Excellent team-building skills and can effectively handle challenges

SALES REPRESENTATIVES (PDI-SR)

- College graduates, not over 28 years old
- At least one year field sales experience
- Good communication skills; able to provide prompt and accurate [illegible]s
- Hardworking [illegible] ve individuals who can stand challenges

TELEMARKETING SUPERVISOR (PDI-TS)

- College graduate, not over 28 years old
- At least 2 years experience in call center operations and telemarketing in a supervisorial capacity
- Service-oriented, with knowledge in prospecting and indirect selling through telephone
- Mature, responsible and can work effectively in a fast-paced environment

SERVICE ENGINEERS (PDI-SE)

- Graduates of EE, ECE or Computer Engineering
- Ideal would be males, not more than 24 years old
- Must have the dedication and competence for intensive training
- Work exposure in an office equipment business environment, a definite advantage

Qualified applicants are requested to mail their resumes
and transcript of records to

(POSITION CODE)
Recruitment and Training Group
1331 Angono St., J.P. Rizal Makati City
or e-mail us at ubxhrd@i-next.net

Konica COPIERS EPSON PRINTERS [illegible]ITSU [illegible]ERS RISO DIGITAL DUPLICATORS okamura OFFICE FURNITURE ServiceMASTER®

Known Undergarment distributor/wholesaler needs qualified candidates for the following positions:

ACCOUNTING STAFF

- Female, 25 to 35 years of age
- Graduate of 4-year accounting or related course
- With 2 years minimum experience in accounting or bookkeeping
- Computer literate and familiar with computerized accounting and inventory systems
- Fast learner and easily adjust to working environment
- Trustworthy and hardworking

MERCHANDISER

- Female, 25 to 35 years of age
- Experience in garment wholesale or retail
- Must have exposure to product design and selection
- Must be familiar with fashion season and trends
- Able to work with store coordinators on site merchandising
- Self-driven, creative and can initiate projects
- Can work with minimum supervision

Attractive remuneration offered to qualified candidates. Office located near FTI Compound at Taguig.

Please send applications with recent photo and contact telephone number to:

NBFI
Unit 401 VFP-MDC Bldg. II
Veterans Road, Veterans Center
1630 Taguig, Metro Manila
Or e-mail to nbfi2001@yahoo.com

Only qualified candidates will be contacted.

An International Airport Project
Needs a

PROJECT MANAGER

We need a hardworking driven and committed professional who will uphold the highest standards of engineering excellence and professionalism

The applicant must be a licensed professional with at least 10 years Management and supervisory experience. He must have extensive experience in the implementation and execution of earthworks specifically subgrade and base works knowledge of cement treated base and asphalt works a must

Bring resumé/clearance apply in person
#17 West Ave., Quezon City
(beside KAMAYAN SAISAKI REST.)
Email: altexlmp@hotmail.com

WANTED

MARKETING MANAGER

- Male / Female, 26 to 35 years old
- Graduate of Marketing or Business Management
- With pleasing personality
- With strong leadership and planning skills
- Good in oral and written communication

ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES

- Male / Female, single, 21 to 30 years old
- College Graduate, with experience in Sales
- Good and pleasing personality
- Hardworking, flexible and self-motivated
- Can work with minimal supervision

SALES REPRESENTATIVES

- Male / Female
- Good and pleasing personality
- Hardworking, with experience in Sales
- Willing to work part time and on commission basis
- With flexible time schedule

Bring [illegible] [illegible]rsonally [illegible]
AMCI, 5th Floor, [illegible]a Condom[illegible] [illegible]g, Salcedo St[illegible]
Leg[illegible] Village, Mak[illegible] [illegible]ty
Look for: [illegible] [illegible]licina or Ju[illegible] [illegible]uti

MANAGERIAL

HAVAS MEDIMEDIA

a Vivendi Universal Publishing company
specializing in healthcare communications
for healthcare professionals, the healthcare industry, and consumers

Join us if you are eager to grow an exciting career
in healthcare publishing and information...

as PHOTO EDITOR ...
if you are a dynamic and creative photographer, preferably with experience in magazine photography; a college graduate proficient in Photoshop and other computer graphic applications; with excellent communication skills and good PR/talent contacts.

as DTP ASSISTANT ...
if you have a good working knowledge of Pagemaker and/or Corel Ventura; with a consistent encoding speed of 50 wpm on the average; proficient in English communication and DTP work.

as ASSISTANT EDITOR ...
if you are a graduate of nursing; with writing and editing experience; have a good knowledge of medical equipment, devices and diagnostic products; computer literate and highly organized.

as SALES SECRETARY...
if you are a college graduate; personable with good communication skills; computer literate; highly organized and hardworking; with a special interest in sales and marketing.

Submit your application, detailed resumé with references and recent photo to:

Havas MediMedia Asia Pte. Ltd.
c/o MediMarketing, Inc., 28/F, Equitable Bank Tower
8751 Paseo de Roxas, Salcedo Village, Makati City, Philippines
Fax: 886 0350 Email: enquiry@medimedia.com.ph
Attention: HR Department

Only shortlisted applicants will be contacted. Previous applicants need not apply.

YOU CAN HELP REVOLUTIONIZE FAMILY HEALTH CARE

Join the dynamic and trailblazing foreign funded health organization with a mission to provide high quality health care services.

The organization is led by respectable and well-established leaders from the banking industry, non-government sector, the academe and the communication industry whose professionalism and prestige are well known and unassailable.

The organization is looking for a **Chief Finance Officer** *with vast experiences in all facets of Financial Management, Budgeting and Comptrollership.*

If you are interested, then send your credentials with your recent photo via e-mail, fax or mail to the following addresses:

Human Resources Department
P.O. Box No. 13922 Ortigas Center, 105 Pasig City
E-mail address: recruitmentfcfi@yahoo.com
Fax No.: 722-2995

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JOBS.

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JOBMarket ONLINE
www.jobmarketonline.com

We Are a Duly-Established Courier Company Who is in Need of the Following:

REGIONAL MANAGER

(Calamba Branches)

- Male/Female, not over 40 years old
- Graduate of any 4-year business course
- S/he must have at least 2 years managerial work experience in a service company
- Proficient in both written and oral communications
- Willing to travel within the region
- Should be a resident of Laguna

ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES

(Manila-Based)

- Male/Female, 21 to 30 years of age, with pleasing personality
- Sales experience in a courier company is necessary
- With high sense of competence and unquestionable integrity
- Of good moral character

Interested and qualified applicants should send their application letter, resumé with photo and transcript of records via courier to:

Box MN-2015
Classified Ads Division
c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer
Pasong Tamo corner Yague and Mascardo Streets
Makati City

JOB OPPORTUNITY

The NGOs, For Integrated Protected Areas, Inc. (NIPA) is a consortium of leading civil society organizations involved in environmental and development work, which focuses on protected area management. It is a recipient of a 20 Million Dollar grant from the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and works with the DENR and the World Bank in the implementation of the Conservation of Priority Protected Areas Project (CPPAP) that pilot-tests the NIPAS Law.

NIPA invites qualified men and women to fill-in the following positions:

Position Title: LIVELIHOOD PROJECT COORDINATOR

Responsibility:

1. Facilitate technical/management support to local project proponents to enable them to access the CPPAP Livelihood Fund.
2. Provide support to site proponents/cooperators for timely implementation of all the approved CPPAP livelihood projects.
3. Coordinate with the PAMB and PIU in monitoring the implementation of the approved projects and provide guidance to the site implementers to ensure monitoring and reporting compliance.
4. Establishes collaborative linkage with various government and non-government agencies for maximization of resources for alternative livelihood projects.

Qualifications:

- With experience in project development, packaging, project monitoring and evaluation;
- Preferably with experience in Agri-business project/rural enterprise development;
- Physically fit to travel frequently to the CPPAP sites;
- With working knowledge/experience in bookkeeping and accounting.

Compensation package: P130,000.00 - P312,000.00 per annum plus attractive fringe benefits.

Position Title: LIVELIHOOD PROJECT MONITORING STAFF

Responsibility:

1. Visit CPPAP livelihood sites and monitor project implementation and fund disbursement
2. Monitor fund reflows/payment of loans.
3. Conduct quick funds inventory and equipment audit.
4. Submit project monitoring and report to Livelihood Manager.

Qualifications:

- A graduate of agri-business or equivalent field of experience.;
- Preferably with experience in project monitoring and evaluation, especially the finance side
- With knowledge in auditing;
- Physically fit to travel frequently to the CPPAP sites.

Compensation package: P130,000.00 - P312,000.00 per annum plus attractive fringe benefits

Position Title: MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEMS SPECIALIST (MIS)

Title Code: **MIS**

Responsibility:

1. Manages the information and data center of CPPAP and NIPA;
2. Update of the NIPA web site;
3. Ensures timely information to the BOT, NIPA President and the Managers (including DENR) through the established e-mail and e-groups systems;
4. Establishes e-groups bulletin to facilitate electronic conference/consultation/discussion: Acts as moderator of the e-groups.
5. Provides regular and timely information to the HNGOs and PASUs pertaining to CPPAP/other project development; establishes and facilitate electronic interaction and sharing among HNGOs and PASUs.
6. Assists in the NIPA Corporate efforts in the establishment and strengthening of information exchange with various national and international environmental and development NGOs and Institutions. Provides relevant data.
7. Publish bi-monthly CPPAP newsletter (PA Monitor).
8. Manages the GIS facility of NIPA.

Qualifications:

- With excellent knowledge of computer systems and information systems related to data management for use by decision makers and planners;
- Dynamic and hardworking person; can work in various decision-making layers of the institution;
- Preferably with experience in library, databank management, MIS, website management;
- Skilled in computer program operations, particularly GIS, MS PowerPoint, Excel, MSWord, Adobe and PageMaker.

Compensation package: P16,000.00 - P29,000.00 plus attractive fringe benefits.

Submit application letter and detailed resumé to:

THE HRMD-A MANAGER
NIPA, Inc., 701 Fil Garcia Tower
140 Kalayaan corner Mayaman Street, Diliman, Quezon City
Telefax: 924-8566; 924-8567
Email: nipa@nipa.org.ph; nipaphil@mozcom.com
Website: www.nipa.org.ph

Previous applicants need not apply
Deadline for application: January 12, 2001

We are a long established foreign-owned group of companies engaged in garment and textile manufacture/export looking for the following personnel:

PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT & QUALITY ASSURANCE HEAD (1)

- ☑ Male
- ☑ Garment Engineering graduate
- ☑ Must have knowledge at least 5 years experience in management, product design and development of new fashion design in garment in an international stature.
- ☑ With sufficient familiarity with ISO quality standard/ procedures.
- ☑ Must have knowledge at least 5 years experience in interpreting engineering drawing in Chinese character.
- ☑ Hardworking and full of initiative.
- ☑ Proficient in Chinese.

SAMPLE PATTERN MAKER & CUTTING SPECIALIST (1)

- ☑ Male.
- ☑ Garment Engineering graduate.
- ☑ Must have knowledge at least 5 years experience in pre-production, garments order sheet and development of new fashion design in working in an international stature.
- ☑ Preferably, with experience and knowledge in cutting, planning, pattern and market design in garment field.
- ☑ With sufficient familiarity with ISO quality standard/ procedures.
- ☑ Must have knowledge at least 5 years experience in interpreting fashion drawing in Chinese character.
- ☑ Hardworking and full of initiative.
- ☑ Proficient in Chinese.

Please send your resumé with 2x2 picture to:

FAR EASTERN INTERNATIONAL GARMENTS, INC.
P.O. BOX 2353
MAKATI CENTRAL POST OFFICE
1263 MAKATI CITY

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creative nations inc.

The First and only full ONE-STOP DRTV production and global product distribution company in ASIA

YOU COULD BE the ONE!

BE PART OF THE DREAM TEAM

ALL POSITIONS COME WITH EXCELLENT SALARY & GREAT BENEFITS

EXECUTIVE PERSONAL ASST.
TO THE PRESIDENT/CEO

- *Male/Female, under 35 yrs old*
- *Graduate of any communication course, preferably with competent background in International Supply/Sourcing and/or International Sales*
- *Must have sufficient working experience*
- *Must have excellent communication skills*
- *Must be goal-oriented, systematic, enthusiastic and polite*
- *Must be able to meet deadlines and work under pressure*

SENIOR NON-LINEAR EDITOR
FOR REGULAR EMPLOYMENT OR PER PROJECT BASIS

- *Male/Female*
- *Minimum 2 yrs. professional experience*
- *Highly knowledgeable in Adobe Premiere, Incite Software, and Matrox Digisuite*
- *Must have adequate working knowledge with AfterEffects and Photoshop*
- *Very Creative yet able to meet deadlines and work with minimal supervision*

2D MOTION GRAPHIC ARTIST
FOR REGULAR EMPLOYMENT OR PER PROJECT BASIS

- *Male / Female*
- *With adequate knowledge and practical application of Adobe AfterEffects, and Photoshop*
- *Must have strong background and experience in Post-Production*
- *Very creative yet able to meet deadlines and work with minimal supervision*

NETWORK ADMINISTRATOR
FOR REGULAR EMPLOYMENT

- *Educational attainment in any engineering discipline, or BS Computer Science*
- *Must have Administration skills in LAN infrastructures, Windows NT, Windows 2000, E-mail*
- *With relevant work experience, preferably in an IT industry*
- *With programming skills and knowledge of basic software application*
- *Can work with minimal supervision*

BE THE ONE!

Visit us at #6 Sto. Teresita St., Bo. Kapitolyo, Pasig City. Or call **632-0308 / 634-8184.** Ask for Ms. Luwee Cahibaybayan. Or email your comprehensive resume at hrd@creativenations.com.

MAKE A CAREER CHOICE ONLINE.

TECHNICAL/PROFESSIONAL

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F and H

Store Manager

- male or female
- college graduate
- preferably with experience in managing a fashion retail store
- creative, with a strong inclination to fashion and visual merchandising

Merchandiser

- male or female
- preferably a graduate of Industrial Engineering, Marketing or any management courses
- with experience in Product Development, Buying, Budget and Allocation
- has marketing skills

Data Encoder

- male or female
- college graduate
- experience in Retail Data Management systems (POS, Inventory, etc.)
- background in PC troubleshooting

Warehouse Clerk

- male
- at least high school graduate
- worked in a retail warehouse environment

folded&hung

Please submit your comprehensive resume/ bio-data to:
#23 Cooper Street, San Francisco del Monte, Quezon City
adenpinc@pacific.net.ph
372-6556 to 58 look for Ms. Bing Icadano

Shoppesville–Robinson's Galleria–Greenbelt–Glorietta II–Robinson's Imus–Festival Supermall,Alabang

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WANTED

TECHNICAL SALES REPRESENTATIVE

- ○ College graduate in Bio Chemistry, Chemistry, Medical Technology, Chemical Engineering, Food Technology
- ○ Enjoys traveling and good work ethics
- ○ To sell and promote laboratory instruments and supplies (with possible training abroad)

LABORATORY INSTRUMENT ENGINEER
ELECTRON MICROSCOPY ENGINEER

- ○ Graduate in Electronics and Communications Engineering
- ○ Computer literate

ARCHITECT / DRAFTSMAN

- ○ Not more than 30 years old
- ○ at least two years experience

Please bring your photo and bio-data with transcript of records to:

PHILAB INDUSTRIES, INC.
7487 Bagtikan Street, San Antonio Village, Makati City
Telephone: 890-8277, 896-6658

"Our company is one of the top 400 companies in the country. We are the Exclusive Philippine Distributor of Diagnostics Reagents & Biomedical Equipments from Italy,US and Medical Disposable products exported to Europe."

We are in need of:

MEDICAL REPRESENTATIVES

You must be between 21 to 27 years old and a graduate of any medical course (preferably Medical Technologist), articulate and self-driven and willing to be assigned to any cities of the following areas:

- ☑ Region III
- ☑ Region IV
- ☑ NCR
- ☑ Region V
- ☑ Visayas (Negros, Panay, Samar)
- ☑ Mindanao (Caraga, Davao, Cotabato and Zamboanga City)

Since the job requires travel to any cities within the areas mentioned, qualified applicants coming from these areas will be given priority. Experience is not necessary. On top of your basic salary, you will receive travelling allowance, per diem, monthly commission, quarterly and yearly travel and cash incentives and car plan for outstanding performer.

Please send your application letter, resumé with 2x2 photo and transcript of records to:

For Metro Manila

CODE: MN-2016
Classified Ads Division
c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer
Chino Roces Avenue corner
Yague and Mascardo Streets
Makati City
Interview on
Jan. 15-16, 2001

For Cebu

CODE: DXTCS
c/o SunStar Daily
P. del Rosario Street
Cebu City 6000
Interview on
Jan 12-13, 2001

For Mindanao

CODE: MRM
c/o Melvin Meg Clamor
#8 Block 13
Santa Clara Street
Skyline Subdivision
Davao City 8000
Interview on
Jan. 17-18, 2001

Schedule of interview:

January 12-13, 2001 - for Visayas (Cebu)
January 15-16, 2001 - for Region III, IV and NCR (Manila)
January 17-18, 2001 - for Mindanao (Davao)

Qualified applicants will be notified about the place of interview.

TEN KNOTS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

A world class tourist destination, EL NIDO RESORTS, located in Palawan needs applicants for immediate employment:

(1) MECHANICAL ENGINEER

26-32 years old, male, with 3-5 years work experience on the job

(1) HR ASSISTANT

25-28 years old, female, with 2-3 years experience on personnel work

(1) GUEST ACTIVITY COORDINATOR

22-26 years old, female, pleasant and service-oriented person

SUCCESSFUL CANDIDATES WILL BE BASED IN PALAWAN

Send resumé with picture to **Ten Knots Development Corp.**,
HR Department, 2/F Builders Centre Bldg., 170 Salcedo Street, Legaspi Village, Makati City.
Through e-mail **hra@elnidoresorts.com** or fax through 894-1134.

DKT

We are a non-government organization involved in social marketing and distribution of contraceptive products. We are inviting success driven individuals to fill in the vacant position of:

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

(for the Communication Director)

Shall assist the Communication Director in the effective implementation of all communication activities of the organization including but not limited to Advertising and Promotions.

Qualifications:

- Can easily adopt to a multi-cultural environment
- Willing to work long hours
- Good ability to write reports and publicity requirements
- Willing to go on out-of-town stint as required
- Strong interpersonal communication skills
- Computer literate (MS Office, Spreadsheet applications)

At least 2 years of work experience in Promotions and Advertising (preferred but not required)

The successful applicant can look forward to an above industry level compensation and benefits package.

Requirement for the above position is immediate, interviews will be conducted on **January 8 and 9, 2001.** Interested applicants can hand-carry or fax their resumé at:

Address : **DKT Philippines, Inc.**
5th Floor, Cedar Executive Building
26 Timog Avenue, Quezon City
E-mail : dkt@philonline.com.ph
Attention : Grace Leonor
Fax No. : 372-6630

Rx MEDICard

MEDICard PHILS INC.

One of the country's leading HMO and the first HMO to be awarded ISO 9002 is looking for assertive, dynamic and energetic individuals to fill up the following vacancies:

CLAIMS PROCESSOR

- Female, not more than 28 years old.
- Must be proficient in Windows application.
- Accounting graduate with at least 6 months experience in the same field.

NURSES

- Female, not more than 25 years old. At least 5'3" in height. Must be a registered nurse.
- With at least 6 months to 1 year experience in a hospital or HMO setting.
- With pleasing personality and above-average communication skills.
- Client-friendly and able to relate well with all levels of the organization.
- Must be computer literate. Willing to be assigned as a reliever.

Qualified and interested applicants are requested to apply personally.
Bring resumé, transcript of records and 2x2 photo at:

Medicard Phils., Inc.
Human Resources Department
8/F Sagittarius Building, H.V. Dela Costa Street, Salcedo Village, Makati City
or e-mail us at **hrd@medicardphils.com**

TECHNICAL/PROFESSIONAL

THE ASSOCIATES

The Associates Finance, Inc., is a Philippine subsidiary of a leading multinational diversified financial services company based in the U.S. The Associates Finance, Inc. seeks qualified people to fill the following vacancies for its operations.

Accounting Manager

Will monitor daily transactions, perform bank reconciliation, and general ledger analysis. Will assist in the preparation of financial reports, formulation of policies and procedures, as well as supervision of accounting staff. Will also handle audit requirements.

Must have at least 3 years related experience in a supervisory capacity, preferably in a financial institution and should be a Certified Public Accountant

Accounting Assistant.

Will perform accounting clerical duties where the identification of items and locations of posting are clearly indicated. With knowledge of established bookkeeping or accounting procedures sufficient to prepare and validate accounting source documents and to examine, verify, and maintain accounts and various accounting records.

Preferably a Certified Public Accountant. Proficient in the use of Microsoft & Lotus spreadsheets. Must have at least 1 year related experience, preferably in a financial institution.

Assistant Manager, Asset Management Unit

Will contact delinquent customers to effectively resolve past due payments. Perform credit investigations, analysis and documentation. Assist in obtaining repossession. Ensure compliance with all company and state regulations governing the proper handling of delinquent accounts.

Prepare regular reports on collection activity including summaries of delinquency ratio and conduct field collection.

Must have at least 1 year related experience in a managerial capacity, preferably in a financial institution. With excellent communication and negotiation skills.

Customer Service Representative

Will be tasked to process loan applications, receive loan payments, attend to telephone inquiries and close loans.

Field Investigators

Will handle field and telephone loan collections and credit investigations.

Our basic requirements for all the positions are:

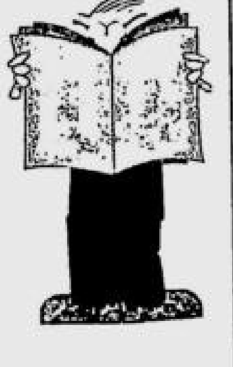
A bachelor's degree from a reputable school; computer literacy; fluency in oral and written English; excellent interpersonal skills; superior administrative and organizational skills; trustworthiness, responsibility and mature outlook; flexibility and openness to new ideas; assertiveness; ability to work under pressure; and strong drive for success.

If you have what it takes to work in a fast-paced working environment and meet the requirements above, please send your comprehensive resume, transcript of records and ID picture to:

The Human Resource Director
Associates Finance, Inc.
2/F Dolmar Gold Tower
107 C. Palanca St., Legaspi Village
Makati City.

A competitive package and a rewarding career await the successful candidates.

Where you find the best.



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www.jobmarketonline.com

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sql*Wizard Training Consulting

ORACLE Certified Solution Partner

We are **SQL*Wizard, Inc.**, a dynamic, fast-growing information technology organization engaged in providing business solutions, and a directly managed partner of ORACLE PHILIPPINES.

We provide members of our team with a good working environment, attractive compensation package, and the best training program for career development in the industry.

The Wizard Group is in need of the following:

(2) Web Application Developers (CODE: WAB)

Qualifications

- Graduate of any 4-year course from a reputable school with above-average scholastic record
- Experienced in core Java 2.0 programming
- Knowledgeable in HTML 4.0 and related topics (e.g. Cascading Style Sheets, Client-side Scripting)
- Knowledgeable in Servlet development and deployment
- Must be familiar with JDBC
- Familiarity with JSP technology, Java IDE's and SQL development is an advantage

(1) Technical Consultant: Accounting Systems (CODE: TAS)

Qualifications

- B.S. Graduate major in Finance, Accounting or Business Management from a reputable school with above-average scholastic record
- Strong background in Accounting systems and procedures
- With extensive experience in developing and/or implementing a computerized General Accounting System
- At least two years experience in managing an IT development project

(1) Technical Consultant: Non-life Insurance (CODE: TNI)

Qualifications

- Graduate of any 4-year course from a reputable school with above-average scholastic record
- Strong background in non-life insurance systems and procedures
- With extensive experience in developing and/or implementing a computerized Non-Life Insurance System
- At least two years experience in managing an IT development project

Common requirements for the above positions

- Male or female
- Not more than 40 years old
- Has very good oral and written communication skills
- Able to relate well with different levels of people
- Is a team player
- Is customer-oriented and can represent the company to external clients

Interested applicants are requested to submit their application letter, resumé and 2x2 ID picture not later than 30 January 2001 through any of the following means:

- E-mail to info@wizardsgroup.com (Indicate position code in subject line)
- Fax to (+632) 889-6989 (ATTENTION: HR)
- Mail to:
  Human Resources
  SQL *Wizard, Inc.
  16/F 88 Corporate Center
  Sedeño corner Valero Streets
  Salcedo Village, Makati City 1227

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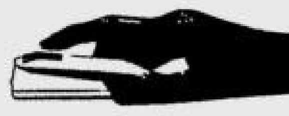

TECHNICAL/PROFESSIONAL/GENERAL

IT DEVELOPERS

A fast growing regional based software consultancy company has immediate vacancies locally and overseas for:

WEB DEVELOPER

- Familiar with Microsoft ASP, Javascript, Visual Basic, Crystal Reports or Java
- Familiar with RDBMS such as Oracle, MS SQL, etc.
- Minimum 2 years web development experience

LOTUS NOTES DEVELOPER

- Familiar with Lotus Notes R4 and R5 with web-enabled application experience preferred
- Minimum 1 year Lotus Notes development experience

Interested applicants should have:

- Degree in Computer Science/Information Technology or equivalent
- Fluent command of English
- Enthusiastic, hardworking, willing to learn
- Willing to travel

We have vacancies for permanent as well as contract positions. We offer competitive compensation package commensurate to qualifications. Qualified applicants are invited to send/email comprehensive resumé with most recent photo to:

P.O. Box 13118 Ortigas Post Office
Email: hr@ivisiontech.com

If you are young, dynamic, aspiring
...talented and can work well with a group!
We invite you to be part of our development team as:

Design Engineer

Qualifications:

- Degree holder in Electronics/Electrical Engineering.
- Thorough experience with digital, analog and mixed-signal circuit design and analysis.
- Experienced in using micro-controller/microprocessor in mixed-signal circuit designs.
- Well versed in the use of Orcad/Cadence CAD Schematic editing/capture tools
- Windows 98/2000 and Office 97/2000 literate.
- Good oral and written communication skills.

Electronics Engineer

Qualifications:

- Female, degree holder in Electronics/Electrical Engineering.
- Windows 98/2000 and Office 97/2000 literate.
- Well versed in the use of Orcad/Cadence CAD Schematic/PCB Library entry and editing tools.
- Good oral and written communication skills.
- Proficiency in technical writing would be an advantage.

PCB/CAD Engineer

Qualifications:

- Degree holder in Electronics/Electrical Engineering.
- Thorough experience in layout/design/routing/DRC/verification/Gerber generation of single, double or multi-layer PCB's.
- Well versed in the use of Orcad/Cadence CAD PCB editing/routing tools.
- Windows 98/2000 and Office 97/2000 literate.
- Good oral and written communication skills.

CAD and Product Design Engineer

Qualifications:

- Degree holder in Mechanical/Industrial Engineering.
- Well versed and experienced with AUTOCAD ver. R14/2000 etc.
- Proficiency with 2D and 3D CAD simulation would be an added advantage.
- Windows 98/2000 and Office 97/2000 literate.
- Good oral and written communication skills.

NOTE:

1. *Interested applicants must submit a copy of their latest resumé via e-mail to address below.*
2. *Strictly resumés must be written in plain text without any document attachments.*
3. *Indicate desired position (as written above) on the subject line for proper routing.*

All applications without the "position" written will be disregarded. Only one position per applicant is allowed.

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- Willing to be assign anywhere
- With or without experience

RECEPTIONIST / PHARMACISTS

- Good interpersonal and communication skills
- Female, 21-28 years old
- With pleasing personality, clear complexion, good hygienic habits
- With experience in telemarketing
- Willing to be assign anywhere

Please see:
Rm. 1008 10th Floor, National Life Insurance Bldg.,
6762 Ayala Avenue, 1226 Makati City (Between SGV 1
& Bankers' Center Bldg. right across Makati Stock Exchange Bldg.)
January 11, 2001 (9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.)
Tel. Nos. 892-5659 / 892-5661

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- B.S. Computer Science or related discipline
- Experience in Delphi and can start immediately
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- Good System Analysis

Clipper Programmer

- B.S. Computer Science or related discipline
- Experience in Clipper/Foxplus
- Good System Analysis skills
- Team player and can handle pressure with minimal supervision
- Knowledge in C an advantage
- Willing to maintain existing codes

Send your resumé or apply in person to:

Rm. 602 Metropolitan Terraces Condo.,
Dao St., Metropolitan Avenue, Makati
Tels. 896-7431 • 8967444 Look for Wendy

AUTOVEYOR PHILIPPINES CORPORATION

We are inviting competent and aggressive individuals to join our growing company.

We need the following personnel for our expansion:

CADET ENGINEER

- Engineering or Industrial Technology graduate or undergraduate
- Male, at least 20 to 25 years old
- Knowledgeable in AutoCAD is a must
- Can work with minimum supervision
- With professional driver's license is an advantage
- With good moral character
- Living nearby Muntinlupa and willing to start immediately

TECHNICAL SALES EXECUTIVE & MARKETING ASSISTANT

- BSME/BSEE or BSECE graduate or undergraduate
- Male or Female, 21 to 28 years old
- Preferably with industrial selling experience of products such as motors, photoelectric sensors, electrical equipment, etc.
- Can represent and communicate well with customer's top level management
- Exposure to selling in the economic zones will be a definite advantage
- Living nearby Muntinlupa and willing to start immediately

Attractive compensation package awaits the qualified applicants.

Send your applications to:

Administration Department
Warehouse 1, VY Industrial Complex
E. Rodriguez Avenue, Tunasan, Muntinlupa City
Tel. Nos. 861-1504 / 20 / 44
Fax No.: 861-2060
E-mail address: apcsales@autoveyor.com.ph

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The above position will report to the Sales Manager. The successful candidate will be responsible for the marketing and promotion of higher education, school and medical titles.

REQUIREMENTS

- ◆ Male or Female
- ◆ Business or Business-related graduates with minimum 2 years of selling/marketing experience in Information Technology or Information Communication Technology (either hardware or software) in Manila area
- ◆ Has initiative and able to work under minimum supervision
- ◆ Aggressive and able to work under pressure
- ◆ Highly-motivated, self-starter and a team player
- ◆ Must be willing to work overtime
- ◆ Fluent in English with good oral and written skills
- ◆ Proficient in MS Office
- ◆ Possesses own car with valid driver's license

BENEFITS

We offer an attractive remuneration and benefits package including training, overseas conference trips, car plan and opportunities to grow with the company

All applicants will be treated in strict confidence.
Only shortlisted applicants will be notified.
Please mail your resumé, recent 2 x 2 colored photo along with your salary history and expectation before January 15, 2001 to:

The Regional Manager
McGraw-Hill IEI (Phils.)
Unit 1503 Jollibee Plaza Condominium
Emerald Avenue corner Ruby Street
Ortigas Center, Pasig City 1600

Please do not hand-carry your application.
Walk-in applicants will not be entertained

OSHC

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Labor and Employment
OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH CENTER
North Avenue cor. Agham Rd., Diliman, Quezon City, ☎ 929-60-36 to 39

NOTICE OF VACANT POSITION

SR. INDUSTRIAL HYGIENIST-SG-19 (P 15,992.00); Item #82-2; CS Professional Bachelor's degree relevant to the job; (2) years of relevant experience; (8) hours of relevant training

ENGINEER II-SG-16 (P 13,427.00); Item #72-1; RA 1080; Bachelor's degree in Engineering relevant to the job; (1) year of relevant experience; (4) hours of relevant training

LIBRARIAN I-SG-10 (P 9,466.00); Item #51; RA 1080; Bachelor's degree in Library Science or Information Science or Bachelor of Science in Education/Arts major in Library Science; training and experience not required

Incomplete requirements will not be processed

Requirements:
Comprehensive Resumé with 2x2 picture
CSC Eligibility / Board Rating
Transcript of Records - (cert. true copy)
Diploma - (cert. true copy)
Certificate of Trainings Attended
Certificate of Employment (if applicable)

Send resumé to: The Office of the Executive Director or apply in person every Tuesday and Thursday only from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Deadline for submission is on 15 January 2001.

PURECHEM CORPORATION

is urgently looking for:

WAREHOUSE SUPERVISOR

- Male/Female, 25 to 35 years old
- College graduate, preferably with experience in inventory-keeping and warehousing
- Has excellent oral and written communication skills
- Computer literate (Windows/MS-Office, a must)

SALES STAFF

- Female, single
- 25-35 years old
- College graduate, preferably with experience in Sales or Marketing
- Has excellent oral and written communication skills
- Computer literate (Windows/MS-Office, a must)

ACCOUNTING STAFF

- Female, single
- 25-35 years old
- Accounting graduate preferably CPA
- With general accounting experience
- Has excellent oral and written communication skills
- Computer literate (Windows/MS-Office, a must)

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1. Reporting directly to the Regional Managing Director
2. Prepare reports, materials for project presentation, etc.
3. Arrange travel bookings
4. Attend to various filing and telephone calls
5. Arrange meetings and conferences
6. Assist in preparation of monthly reports
7. Prepare draft letters
8. Perform other tasks delegated

E-mail or hand deliver application letter, comprehensive resumé and academic transcript not later than 15 January 2001 to the address below.

Personnel Manager
MAUNSELL PHILS., INC.
8th Floor Jaka 6780
(formerly Royal Match Bldg.)
Ayala Avenue, Makati City
Email Address: mpi@maunsellphils.com

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is in need of dynamic and results-oriented individuals for the following positions:

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DISTRIBUTOR SALES SPECIALIST

- At least 2 years experience in handling Regional Distributors and major Supermarkets with FMCG
- Must have good oral and written communication skills
- Knowledgeable in MS WORD, EXCEL and Power Point
- Must possess a Valid Professional Driver's License

All interested individuals may mail their comprehensive resumé together with their transcript of records and a 2x2 picture to the following address:

Eldon Industrial Corp.
Lot 421 C-4 Katipunan Road
California Village, San Bartolome
Novaliches, Quezon City
or Call 419-3816
and look for Zusette Briones

JOB VACANCY

ACCOUNTING/SALES CLERKS

- Accounting/Commerce graduates
- Male / Female
- Not more than 30 years old
- With at least one year experience
- Computer literate
- For Sales Clerks, preferably residing in Novaliches, QC.

INVENTORY CLERK

- Commerce graduate
- Preferably Male
- Not more than 30 years old
- With at least one year experience
- Computer literate

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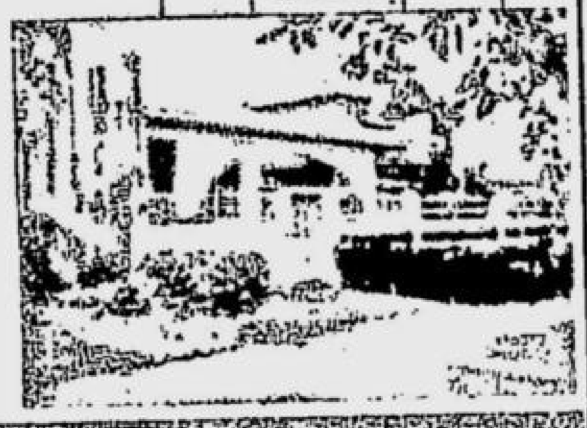
Address	Lot Area	Improvement	Flr. Area	Price
ANTIPOLO				
Blk. 1 Lot 29 Rosal Ave. - Lumang Bayan Executive Village Marcos Highway	126	3 units of 2-storey (with 2BR and 1TB per unit)	139.25	1.42M
Blk. 16 Lot 39 Lirio St. corner Hyacinth St. Antipolo Hills Subd.	245	bungalow with 1BR and 1TB	32	600T
CALOOCAN CITY				
#34 Magsaysay St. Del Rey Subd., Baesa	374	2-storey single detached with 9BR and 4TB	414	5.5M
LAS PIÑAS CITY				
No. 16 Kuala Lumpur St. BF Homes	290	single-detached 5BR and 5TB	224	3.5M
MANILA				
1980 Kasama St. Sampaloc	240	2-storey duplex and 4-storey resdl property (12 apt units)	746	10M
MUNTINLUPA CITY				
No. 244 Apitong St. Ayala Alabang Village	761	single-detached, 6BR and 6TB	593	16.5M
PARAÑAQUE CITY				
Bermuda corner Bahrain St. Annex 40 Better Living	55	2-storey townhouse with 2BR and 2TB	91	1.26M
No. 10 Hometown St. Fourth Estate Subd	200	split-level house with 5BR and 2TB	185	1.7M
No. 32 Benitez corner E. Yuchengco St. BF Homes	984	single detached with 7BR and 6TB swimming pool and basement	523	8M
No. 37 Dela Rama cor C. Benitez St. BF Homes	316	bungalow with 5BR and 6TB	260	3.6M
No. 82 Apple cor Cypress St., Maywood II	361	bungalow with 3BR and 2TB	116.27	2.161M
No. 24 A. Chipco St. BF Homes	280	bungalow with 3BR and 3TB	245	4.9M
Unit 11-A, No. 15 Finland St. Better Living Subd.	51	Townhouse with 2BR and 2TB	79	1.2M
Unit 11-C, No. 15 Finland St. Better Living Subd.	51	Townhouse with 2BR and 2TB	79	1M
No. 808 Armela Comp. Km. 17 Int. of West Service Rd. South Super Highway'	3585.55	11 parcels of land (with 5 units of warehouse and plant site		23.2M
Unit 315-A Abbey St. Goodwill Subd. III Bo. San Dionisio'	111	townhouse unit		1.57M
No. 17 Nuestra Señora De Soledad, San Antonio Valley 9	264	single-detached 5BR and 2TB	421	2.4M
No. 41 Prudencio de Santos St. BF Homes Subd.	432	5BR and 5TB	284	3.5M
PARAÑAQUE CITY				
Lot 9 Blk. 25 No. 14 Negros St. Marina Subd	659	single-detached with 5BR and 5TB	498	15M
PASIG CITY				
39 Diamond St. Doña Juliana Village Rosario	437	2-storey with 6BR and 5TB	385	5M
20 3rd St. Doña Juliana Subd. II	540	2-storey with 7BR and 4TB	408.48	4.5M
Unit 303 Cataluna Bldg. Las Villas de Valle Condo Valle Verde II, Kasmito St. cor. Lanuza Ave.'		condo unit with 3BR and 2TB	132.96	4.26M
Renaissance 2000 Meralco Ave Unit 306, 3rd Flr.'		condo unit with 3BR and 3TB	191.065	9.6M
Renaissance 2000 Meralco Ave Unit 901, 9th Flr.'		condo unit with 1BR and 1TB	70.689	3.7M
#82 cor. Butterfly and Firefly Sts. Valle Verde 6 Pasig City	957	2-storey residential building with 4BR and 5TB	505	32M
QUEZON CITY				
Int. Waling-Waling St. RDJ Subd., Sauyo Novaliches	250	2-storey with 4BR and 2TB	141.75	1.8M
No. 501 Spalding St. Pentagon Homes Diliman	400	split-level house with 6BR and 4TB	310	6.5M
Blk. 5 Lot 1 General Ave., GSIS Village, Project 8	330	5-storey unfinished building	1181	12M
Unit 3-B Building II 3rd Floor, Bougainvilla Mansion, P. Tuazon Cubao		condo unit with 3BR and 2TB	73	2.2M
Blk. 1 Lot 20-A/B (No. 24), Mangga Road Cubao	1122	commercial property (office, car shed)	205	30M
No. 1785 (441) Int. E. Rodriguez Ave. Cubao Lot 22-1-4/22-15	77	unfinished 3-storey townhouse with 6BR and 6TB	246	2.2M
No. 10 Sierra Monte Villas, Filinvest II Matandang Balara	96	2-storey townhouse		2.2M
No. 63 Doña Juliana St. cor. Gandhi St. Filinvest II'	688	2-storey house		3.95M
No. 138 A. Luna St. Project 4'	288.2	2-storey house		6.5M
Unit A, No. 3, 12th St. New Manila	105	2-storey house with attic	213.11	3.6M



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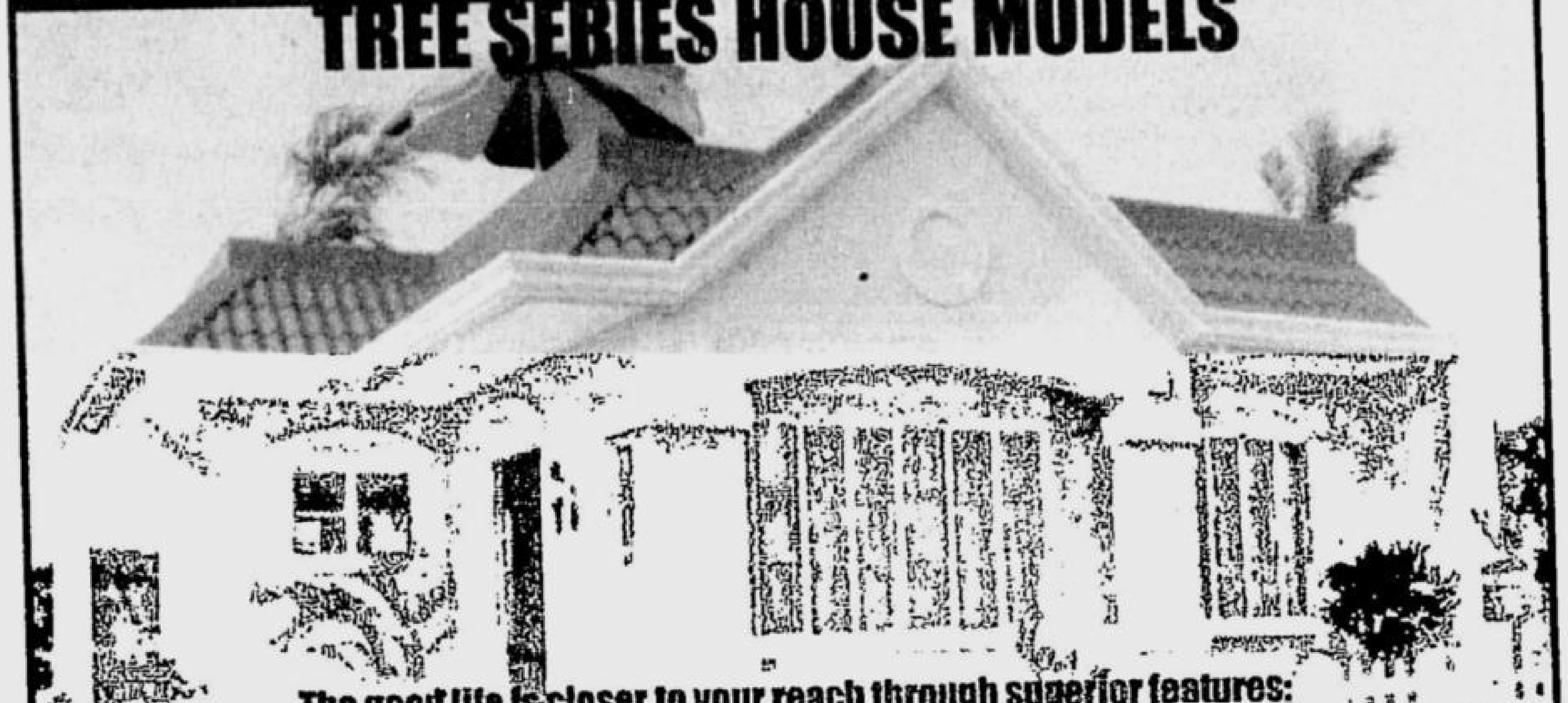

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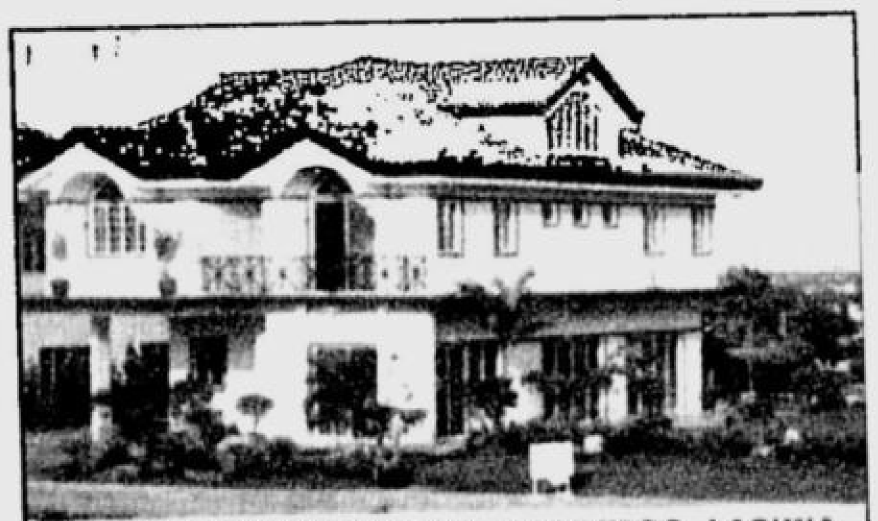

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727-3296, 726-0434, 722-0962, 150-359801

AYALA SOUTHVALE-B. New Lot 9 Blk. 3, Gomez Place, LA: 636 sqm., FA: 750 sqm., 6 Bedroom plus Den and Attic, 9 Toilet and Bath, 7 Carport, with Pool and Bath, Lanai with view of Makati Skyline by T. Lilles, 7264371/0434, 7220962, 150-359801.

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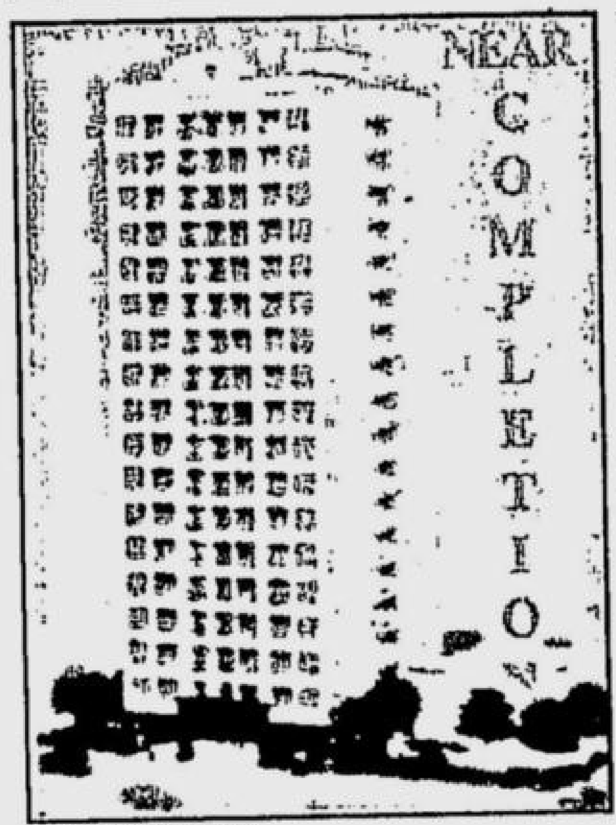

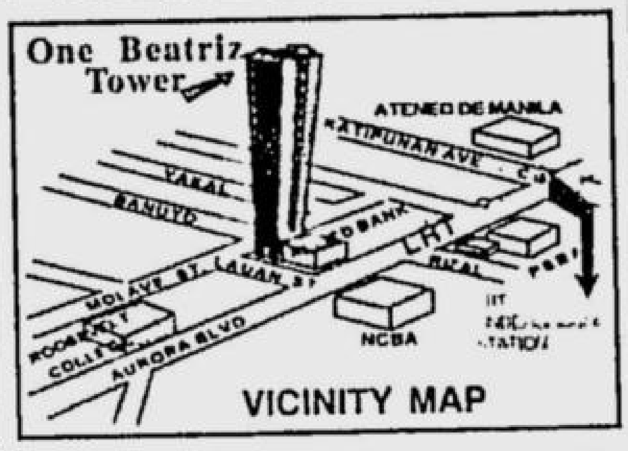

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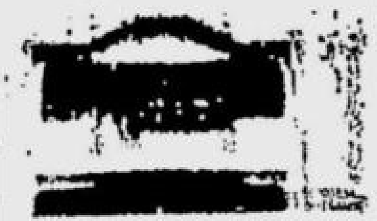

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HLURB approves parallel processing of housing permits

THE HOUSING and Land Use Regulatory Board can now process applications for certificate of registration and license to sell for subdivision or condominium projects even if the environmental compliance certificate (ECC) and survey plan are still pending before the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

This assurance was made recently by Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council chair Leonora V. de Jesus.

It is expected that new projects will be started by private developers during the first months of this year.

De Jesus said the HLURB board, which she chairs, approved the parallel processing in an effort to shorten the paperwork for registration and licensing requirements of subdivision and condominium projects.

"Through parallel processing, we can further reduce the 30-day processing period by two weeks," De Jesus remarked.

She said that while the ECC and survey plan are being processed by the DENR, the HLURB can already undertake the publication requirements that take at least two weeks to complete.

But she cautioned subdivision and condominium developers that the final approval of the certificates and licenses will be made only after the ECC and survey plan have been approved by the DENR.

President Estrada earlier issued Executive Order 258, which prescribes a 30-day period in the issuance of certificates of registration and licenses to sell from filing of completed application.

Among the requirements referred to in a completed application is an ECC and approved survey plan of the subdivision, both issued by the DENR.

Private housing and subdivision developers earlier complained about the long bureaucratic red tape involved in undertaking an ordinary subdivision or condominium, delaying the President's socialized housing program.

The private developers said sometimes it took them close to two years before a single housing unit could be constructed due to the lengthy processing of documents.

De Jesus said her office is continuing its own study to seek ways of further abbreviating the processing of documents and pertinent papers related to housing constructions.

CONSTRUCTSCOPE

1st CEP seminar for 2001

THE PASAY-MAKATI Realtors Board Inc. will conduct for its members, associates and friends the "Ultimate Continuing Education Program" on Jan. 13 and Jan. 20 (both with 8-hour CEP credits) from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. at the 2nd floor, Claro Room, Max's Restaurant, Greenbelt Park, Makati City. The CEP seminar is part of the PMRB program needed for the renewal of license of real estate brokers.

Interesting subjects to be discussed are property management, land title fraud, real estate taxation, contract documentation and registration, laws relating to real estate development, property development, legal aspects of sale, lease and mortgage, and appraisal fundamentals for real estate brokers. Interested parties may call up the PMRB secretariat at 893-0569 and 893-0585 or e-mail at pmrb@broline.com or visit the PMRB offices at Unit 502-P Parking Building, Cityland 10, H.V. dela Costa Street, Ayala Avenue, Makati City. The two-day series of seminars satisfies the 16-hour requirement for CEP accreditation necessary for license renewal.

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Microtel Inns & Suites (Pilipinas) Inc., the Philippine master franchise holder of the US-based Microtel chain of economy hotels, has opened the first Microtel hotel in Asia, a 50-room, four-story hotel in Calapan City, Oriental Mindoro. Launched in time for the 50th founding anniversary of Oriental Mindoro, Microtel Calapan is the pioneer structure in Filipiniana Calapan, a master-planned commercial complex of the RGV Group of Companies led by Oriental Mindoro Gov. Rodolfo G. Valencia. All Microtels in the country are managed by Paramount Property Management Co., an affiliate of The Phinma Group.

Crown Asia's new sales thrust

SHOPPING malls are no longer just another place for us to bring our family to shop or just hang out. Now, more than ever, we may even be able to buy a house and lot while enjoying a leisurely stroll.

Crown Asia has taken steps to be near potential buyers by taking its offices where they are, including a very aggressive presence in the malls. These malls include SM Megamall in Mandaluyong City, SM City North Edsa and SM City Fairview in Quezon City, and the Alimall & Farmers Mall in Cubao, Quezon City.

"We have slowly been redefining our presence in the nontraditional places for real estate companies, and this includes malls where our booths are not just people with brochures and pictures," explained Crown Asia chief executive officer Marcelino C. Mendoza.

"Being near to our buyers does not just mean mounting an exhibit, but bringing our offices closer to them," Mendoza added.

The Crown Asia mall booths feature staff that are sufficiently trained to answer all inquiries and explain details about cash and financing deals.

"The booths are equipped with computers hooked up to the Internet. These enable us to coordinate with our main office in Cubao and we can set our buyers up for either a meeting to make their purchase official or even an on-site visit just to seal the purchase deal," Mendoza added.

Cash discounts of as much as P100,000 plus a chance to win a brand-new Honda Civic are just a few of the sales perks that Crown Asia offers. By making a reservation and paying at least 15 percent of the contract price one can avail of trips and accommodation to Plantation Bay or El Nido or Puerto Galera or Tagaytay. Not to be missed are the flexible financing terms, the 30 percent down payment 14-month no-interest scheme and the low monthly amortization scheme.

So the next time you are in the mall, visit a Crown Asia booth. View their masterplanned subdivisions—Cottonwood Heights, Maia Alta and The Orchard in Antipolo City/Nova Romania, Residenza and Villa Alegria in Novaliches, and La Brea in Fairview, Quezon City.

On the other hand, if you have time, visit their office at 187 Aurora Boulevard, Quezon City. The marketing office lay-out and design give new meaning to personalized customer service. From the beginning to end, you'll know that Crown Asia is your ideal home. Also call 7260083-84 or visit their website at www.crownasia.com.ph.

Monark goes dotcom with eLink

MONARK, the Caterpillar distributor in the Philippines, embraces the Internet with its unveiling of eLink. eLink provides a suite of software solutions that brings together a virtual dealer storefront. The system links Monark Caterpillar and customers with processes they needed to seamlessly interact right on their desktops. eLink gives access to products and service information, online parts ordering, equipment rental reservations and used equipment.

Recognizing how the Internet can impact Philippine companies to help them more competitive, Monark felt compelled to formulate growth strategies and a new approach in doing business. The CAT storefront using eLink allows companies profitable growth through technology utilization. Dubbed project eMonark www.eMonark.com, the core of this $6-million project is Caterpillar's DBSI, a new Web-enabled dealer business system.

This eCommerce project is a collaboration of the best IT integrators available: Siebel, the world's leader in Customer Relations Management software; SAP, the market leader in enterprise applications software. Exact Software and Crossworlds Software with its "Spine" technology integrate the whole package with Monark's dealer business system, hence the name DBSI.

True to its eVision as the leading equipment dealer and solutions provider in the country, eLink will make Monark the leading e-business resource for its customer.

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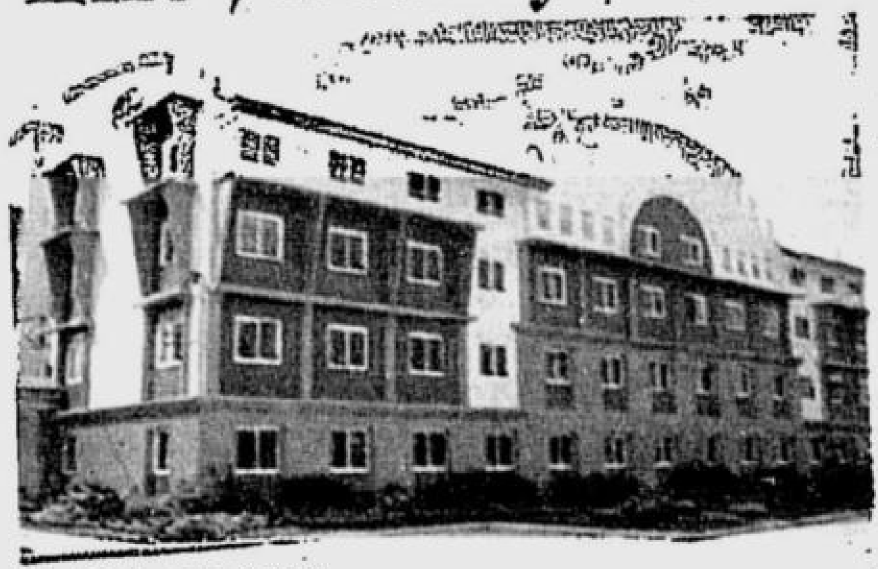

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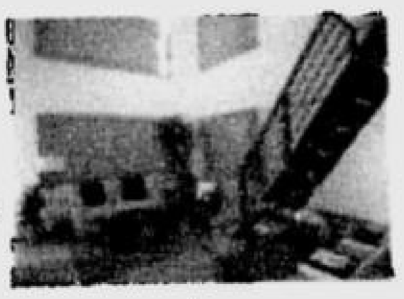

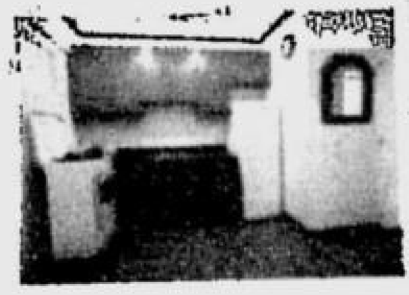

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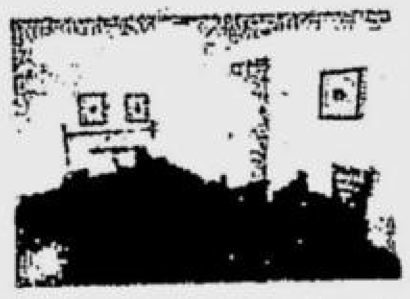

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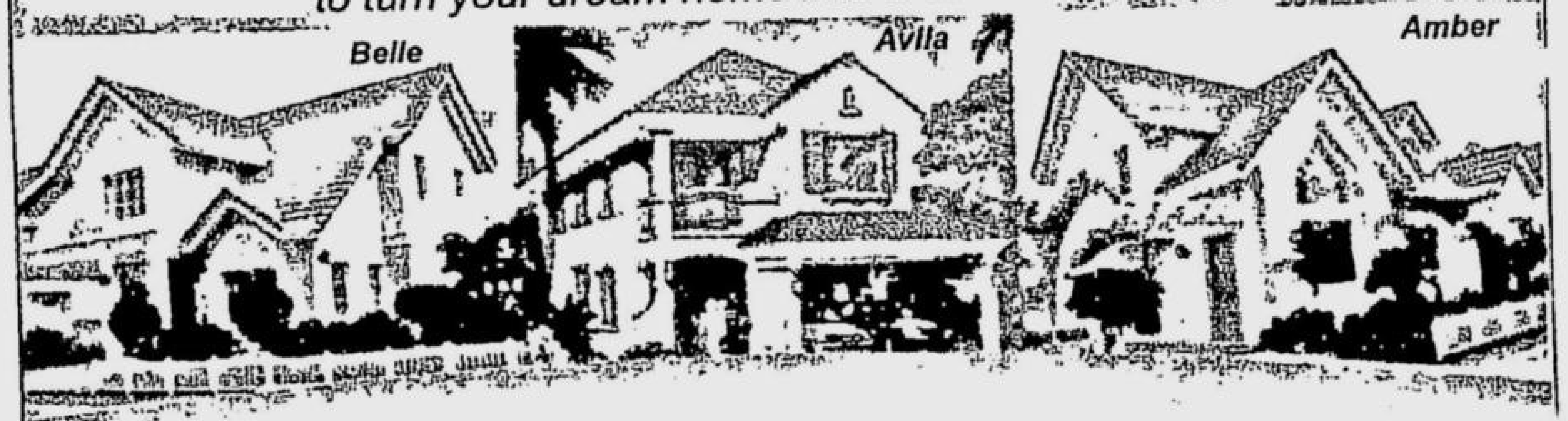

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Steps proposed to fortify gov't housing program

THERE is a need for a more aggressive implementation of government-led housing programs to cover the slack in private sector production, according to presidential housing adviser Leonora V. de Jesus.

For the government housing program to gain impetus, De Jesus has requested the Department of Budget and Management for the early release of the P2.5-billion funds for the community mortgage program and the P5.1-billion allotted to the National Housing Authority.

De Jesus said the P5.1-billion unreleased funds for the NHA represents only 5.74 percent of the total government construction expenditure for this year.

Another step recommended by De Jesus is the adoption of a massive public rental system, especially within the remaining idle and unoccupied housing units, 100,000 of which were inherited by President Estrada from previous administrations.

A third strategy to be implemented by the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council, according to De Jesus, is to authorize the Pag-Ibig Fund to undertake turn-key housing projects.

A fourth strategy is to build housing projects by and for the local government units (LGUs), De Jesus said.

The LGUs were earlier asked to submit their comprehensive land use programs, but many have not submitted their CLUPs yet. President Estrada has extended the deadline of submission to Dec. 31 of this year.

De Jesus said that in January next year, The Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board shall have all the listing of lands available for housing projects by LGUs, especially for their employees.

At the same time, the HUDCC is preparing for the flotation of social housing bonds, National Housing Authority bonds and mortgage-backed securities.

On the flotation of the social housing bonds, the HUDCC is working on the approval of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas and the Philippine National Railways for the conveyance and assignment of their identified properties to a special purpose vehicle to be used as initial assets to back up the float.

The Department of Finance and the Bangko Sentral have to approve the designs and term sheets of the social housing bonds, NHA bonds and mortgage-backed securities.

De Jesus said, however, said the HUDCC is still trying to determine the right timing to float or issue the bonds and securities, given today's high interest rates that discourage the sale and purchase of the bonds.

Housing permits processing time review continues

THE GOVERNMENT housing agencies are continuously seeking ways to shorten the processing periods for dealing with housing and land development.

Presidential housing adviser Leonora V. de Jesus said many housing developers are delayed not by bureaucratic processes but by not following the appropriate sequence for securing permits for housing.

Most often overlooked, she said, is the first thing that any property developer should do—to apply for a site zoning certificate (SZC) from the local government unit. The permit it simply certifies the existing or actual zoning clas-sification of the area where the property is located.

De Jesus said this is a simple but "critical" certificate that serves to provide vital input to equally important certificates and clearances such as the environmental compliance certificate of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the certificate of zoning compliance or locational clearance of the local government or the Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board.

The only requirement for this certificate is a lot site and vicinity map duly signed and sealed by a licensed geodetic engineer and copy of the applicant's certificate of title or proof of land ownership.

While admitting there are operational problems in the issuance of permits related to housing and land development, De Jesus assured the public that the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council will further reduce the processing time as ordered by President Estrada on June 28, 2000.

Executive Order 258 imposes on various agencies a processing period for housing and land development applications. The order gives the Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board five days to issue zone certifications and 30 days to issue certificate of registration and license to sell, while the agriculture department has 10 days to issue a certificate of eligibility.

The agrarian reform department has 13 days to issue a conversion order while the DENR was given five days for a Nipas certification.

De Jesus added there is an ongoing review and revision of the standards and guidelines implementing presidential decree 957 and BP 220.

SAGISAG NG PANGULO NG PILIPINAS

GOV'T, CHURCH ALLIANCE FOR SOCIALIZED HOUSING
Secretary Lenny V. de Jesus, presidential housing adviser and chair of the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council, forged a memorandum of agreement with the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Manila, Parish of the Holy Family of San Andres Bukid Association and the Home Development Mutual Fund on the completion of land development and construction of six buildings for housing on the two adjoining parcels of land owned by the Manila Archbishopric located in Santa Ana. From left are HDMF president Ramon Palma Gil, Manila Mayor Lito Atienza, Bishop Crisostomo Yalung, President Joseph Estrada, Secretary De Jesus, Msgr. Melchor David and Lim Hong Tat, Maybank president and financier of the project. The housing program is expected to help 690 beneficiaries.

FPDSavills relocates to Philamlife Tower

FPDSAVILLS, already the largest property consultancy in the Philippines, has relocated its entire senior management team and research, sales and marketing staff to the new Philamlife building in Paseo de Roxas, Makati. The remainder of the staff—property management and support personnel—has relocated to separate premises in the Fort Bonifacio Global City where FPDSavills has a significant presence.

This was announced by FPDSavills (Phils.) managing director Jonathan Hannam who explained that with the expansion of an additional 20 staff and new services, the company has outgrown its former premises. He added, "We decided to relocate to Philamlife because it offers state-of-the-art facilities that will create important benefits for our customers. These include improved infrastructure for information technology, together with a superb work environment that will lead to better productivity."

FPDSavills now manages 47 commercial and residential projects totaling 2 million square meters, reinforcing its position as the largest property manager in the country. FPDSavills' newly established Investment, Sales and Acquisitions department complements other services namely Commercial Sales and Leasing; Corporate Residential Services; Appraisal and Valuation; Development, Research and Property; and Facilities Management.

Hannam said the company will soon release details of major new wins in commercial agency including a 3,500 square meter office deal with one of the country's major accounting firms. Simon Haynes, FPDSavills Hong Kong managing director, congratulated the Manila operation for its excellent performance.

Hannam noted that despite a sluggish economic investment environment, the expatriate community is still a stable source of demand for residential condominium developments "although we are not overly optimistic that this will be sustained given the ongoing rationalization of housing budgets by corporations." The Japanese who now account for approximately 42 percent of the foreign direct investment dominates the profile on this market, he added. The Taiwanese, Chinese, Americans, South Koreans and British account for the remainder of the total expatriate population.

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After a green year, US carmakers face battles over environment

DETROIT—After a year of touting their efforts to make cars and trucks more environmentally friendly, US automakers will face two thorny disputes in 2001—fuel economy and emissions—that could threaten their green credibility.

"This was the year that fuel economy got put on the table," said Jason Mark, transportation director for the Union of Concerned Scientists. "The key question is how the auto industry deals with it in the coming year."

Ford Motor Co. made a big splash in July when it announced a plan to improve the fuel economy of its sport utility vehicles by 25 percent over five years. Ford's claim riled executives at General Motors Corp. enough that the world's largest automaker came out a week later to say it too would improve the fuel economy of its SUVs.

"GM will be the leader in five years, or for 15 years or 20 years," vice chair Harry Pearce said. "We have spent years achieving this leadership position. And I think it's extremely important that when we talk about fuel economy, we talk about deeds, not words."

GM, Ford and DaimlerChrysler all announced plans to build trucks with hybrid electric power within a few years—Ford with its Escape small SUV, GM with a full-size pickup and DaimlerChrysler with its Dodge Durango SUV.

And the Big Three all showed off prototypes of cars with mileage of 70 to 80 miles per gallon (29.5 to 33.7 kilometers per liter)—at the same time, highlighting how far such exotic vehicles are from production.

"We really believe we can be good corporate citizens for the environment and give customers what they want," said Ford CEO Jacques Nasser in December.

But the companies also fought efforts to raise federal fuel economy standards that were last set in 1975. GM, Ford and the Chrysler side of DaimlerChrysler struggle to meet the Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFE) requirement that their light-truck fleets average 20.7 miles per gallon (8.7 kilometers per liter) because of the thirsty—and highly profitable—large pickups and SUVs.

After years of banning consideration of higher standards, Congress approved a study of tougher fuel economy regulations by the National Academy of Science that is scheduled to be completed next year. Mark and other environmentalists said that study could open the door for an increase in fuel economy standards in a few years.

"I think the auto companies recognize that their days without improved Cafe standards are numbered," said Daniel Becker, director of the Sierra Club's global warming and energy programs. "Maybe they bought some more time with a Bush administration, but that's not clear."

The first deadline looming for the auto industry is Jan. 25, when the California Air Resources Board will consider changes in rules requiring that zero-emission vehicles make up 4 percent of annual sales by 2003.

While automakers have touted hybrid vehicles powered by a gas engine and an electric motor, the board has ruled that only totally electric cars meet the zero-emission requirement. That would mean automakers would have to sell about 22,000 electric cars a year in California to meet the standards or face a $5,000 fine on every vehicle they sell there.

Automakers have long contended there's no market for battery-powered cars—last year, they sold 1,277 in the United States. Environmentalists say automakers aren't making a real effort to sell and build electrics.

The board's proposed changes would cut the number of zero-emission vehicles required to about 4,650, and let automakers count hybrids toward the 4 percent goal. But the proposal has satisfied neither side.

The Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers, an industry group composed of 13 manufacturers, has proposed a market test of electric vehicles in one city with the goal of measuring how much demand exists. Gloria Bergquist, a spokesperson for the group, said the new proposals are slightly better, but also add pressure by lessening clean-air credits on some vehicles.

"The way we look at it, they have one foot on the brake and one on the accelerator," she said.

Mark said CARB was wrong to back away from its mandates, and said the automakers would find a market for battery-powered vehicles if they built enough of them.

"Their posture on this is going to be important from an environmental perspective," he said. *AP*

Honda to boost motor sports business: report

TOKYO—Japan's Honda Motor Co. will invest $26 million to overhaul the Suzuka race circuit as part of its plan to expand motor sports businesses, a newspaper said Sunday.

Honda will reconstruct the circuit in central Japan, 300 kilometers (186 miles) southwest of Tokyo, at a cost of three billion yen ($26 million), the Nihon Keizai Shimbun said.

This will be the first major reconstruction of the circuit since 1987, the business daily said, adding that it will end by 2002.

The overhaul is aimed at winning a renewal of Honda's contract with Formula One racing organizers, which currently runs through 2006, the Nihon Keizai said.

Honda will separately increase its supply of engines to outfit four CART racing teams from the current three teams in the United States, the daily said.

The automaker is targeting more victories on the circuit, where Toyota Motor Corp., Ford Motor Co. and DaimlerChrysler AG also supply engines, it said.

The move is expected to intensify competition with its domestic rival Toyota, which is also beefing up its racing-related business.

In November, the nation's largest carmaker announced an agreement to buy 49 percent of Fuji International Speedway Co. Ltd. for 2.5 billion yen from Mitsubishi Estate Co. Ltd.

Toyota said its stake would rise to 67 percent of Fuji International, one of Japan's largest racing circuits, as part of its effort to break rival Honda's grip on Formula One in Japan.

Honda and Toyota will intensify their motor sports rivalry in 2002 when Toyota makes its F1 debut as a full works team, with Finland's Mika Salo as its lead driver.

Honda, which quit F1 racing in 1992 after eight successful years as an engine supplier, made a comeback last season with an engine for former world champion Jacques Villeneuve's British American Racing outfit. *AFP*

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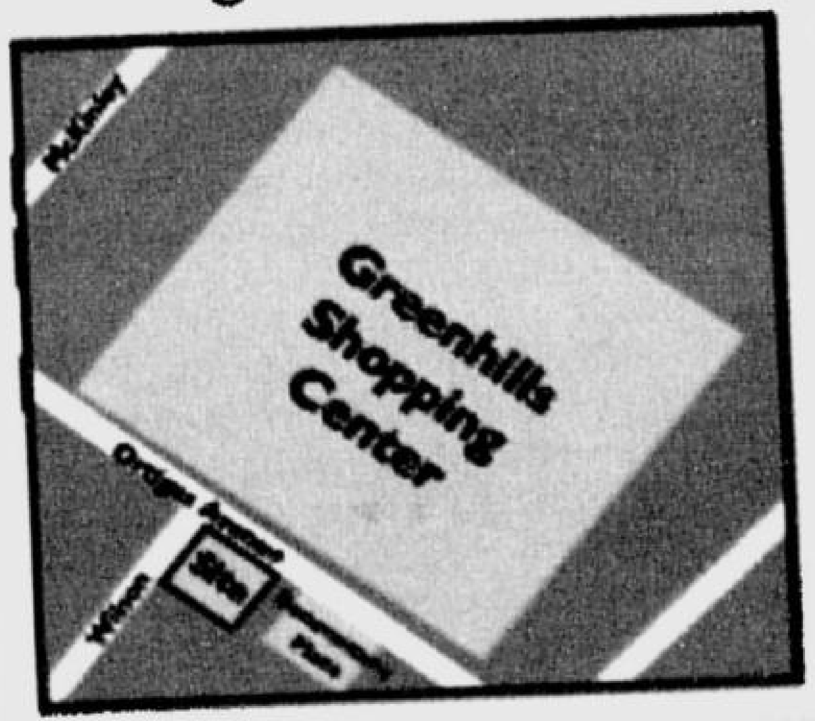

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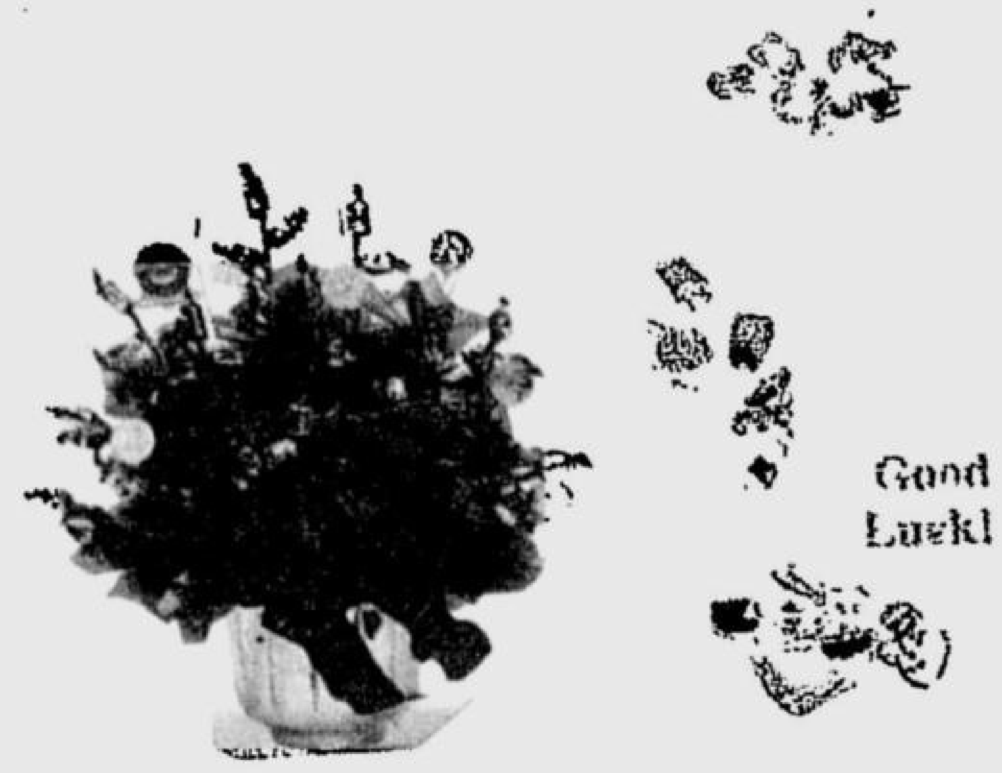

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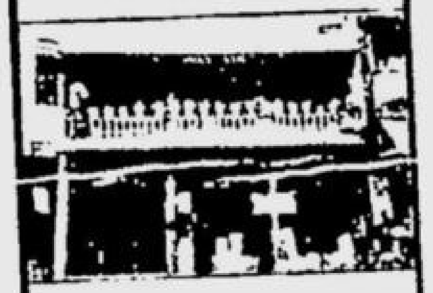

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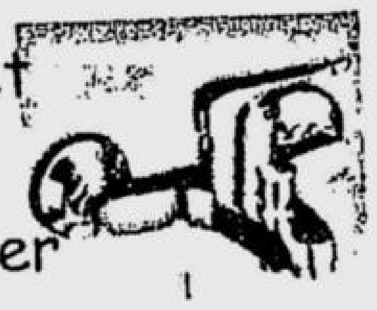

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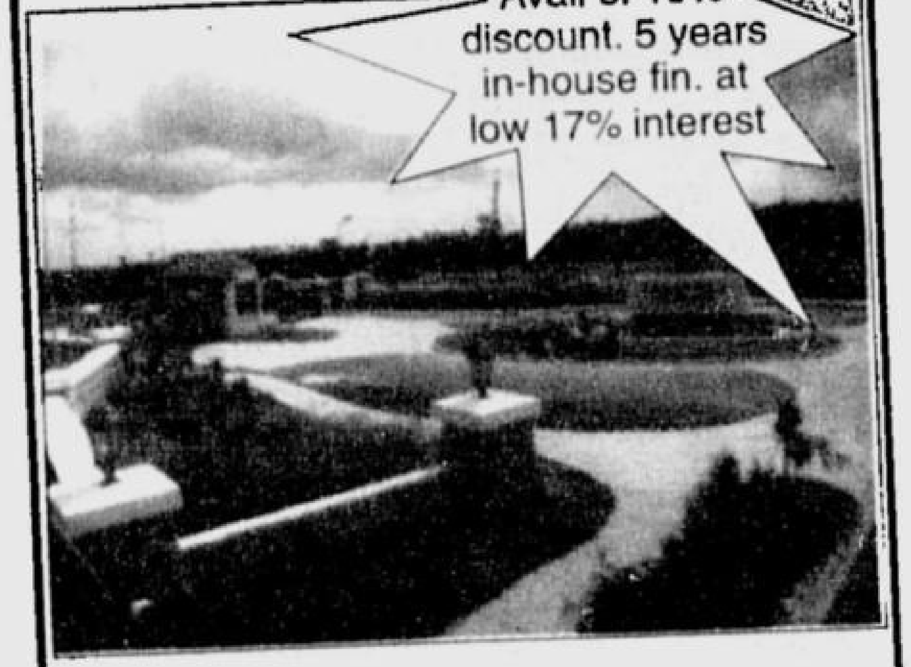

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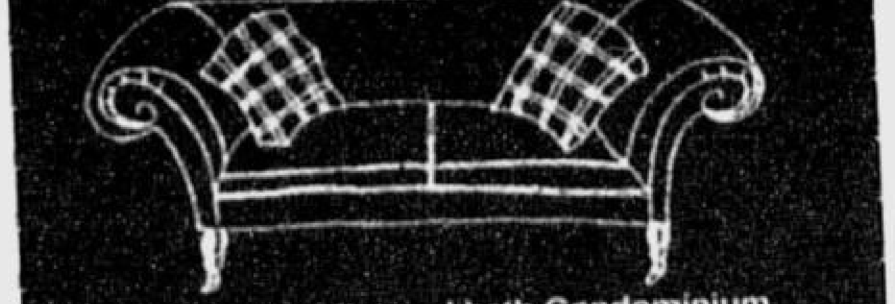

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SUNDAY
GET TO KNOW SOME REAL PEOPLE
INQUIRER
MAGAZINE

January 7, 2001
Volume 13 No. 96

Web Masters

LegManila and Localvibe Hook Up

PEOPLE ON THE NET ISSUE

CONTENTS

Features

Cover Story
Net Gains *by Ruel S. De Vera* 3
Two young Internet companies join forces to bring Metro Manila's charms to the Web

Young Achievers
Gold in Black Pearls *by Joy Rojas* 10
Entrepreneur Genevieve Lim ignited a craze with one magic word: Zagu

First Person
Once More for E-Love *by Elen S. Pomarejo* 11
SIM's own editorial assistant finds her soul mate—with a little help from a modem

Business Watch
Wired for Work *by Cora Llamas* 12
Need a job? Let JobsDB's general manager Raymond Catane explain why help is just a click away

The Writer's Life
From Verbal to Virtual *by Theresa Bonoan* 13
A veteran magazine editor tells about her foray into the world of websites

Regulars

Letters 2

His World Jaime Daez *by Anton San Diego* 6

End Page Mamma and His Ten Wives *by Jonathan Best* 14

Pinoy Nga! *Pasukan na Naman by Jess Abrera* 15

This Week 16

POETRY PLEASE

I am one of your frequent readers. I really enjoy every article that you feature. SIM has been of great help, especially when I was in college. Now that I'm already a teacher, I still get useful information from SIM and share it with my students. I am particularly fond of your poetry section and I even got published in that section twice. But since you redesigned your layout it seems that you have decided to omit your poetry section. I was also in a publication (university paper) before and I somehow appreciate your "layout experiment." But I hope that you still allot a page or space for Filipino poetry because SIM is one of the few magazines that serve as an avenue for Filipino writers.

GENARO R. GOJO CRUZ
Siniloan, Laguna

(Editor's note: Fear not, dear reader. With this issue, brand-new Associate Editor Ruel S. De Vera also takes over as Poetry Editor, so we will be featuring more poems in future issues. Please address all future contributions to him.)

PLANTS AS PRESENTS

I have read your December 10 issue where you featured affordable but prized gifts. I would like to add to Ms. Domini Torrevillas' listing of plant products, like the miracle fruit. I have one which I got from Greenville Plants at Tabang, Guiguinto, Bulacan, just after the toll gate entering Malolos, and the over 6-foot tree costs only P800. According to *Mang* Jess, the agriculturist who recommended the plant to me, the miracle tree takes a while to bear fruit, so he gave me this big one so I could enjoy it. It was a good decision, as it is now bearing the red fruits. Last week, I did the Christmas décor for our house in Bulacan and I went to Tabang again to buy what you call *alucaria* for only P600. Then I bought King Louie's poinsettia at Rona's Garden for only P150 for a small pot and P180 for the bigger one. You cannot get these kinds of bargains in Manila.

JULIETA PARIAN
<jparian@hotmail.com>

NEWS YEAR WISHES

With the sad and unpleasant situation prevailing in our country, please allow me to make a few wishes for this new year and the years to come:

I wish that never again shall we have a president morally unfit and intellectually unprepared to lead our country.

I wish that the majority of our voters would be intelligent and discerning enough to elect a highly capable president.

I wish that daily protest rallies and demonstrations of the kind and magnitude we are witnessing now will be a thing of the past.

I wish that Almighty God will give our troubled country a chance to move forward to political stability and a better life for our people.

Happy New Year!

BIENVENIDO A. SALVOSA
St. Dominic Village
Tarlac City

Cover Story, page 3

The Cover Image The combined forces of LegManila and Localvibe are all smiles as they embark on their online urban invasion: (From L to R) Bernice Arcenas, Issy Orlina Reyes, Jet Lacson, Chuck Syjuco, Trixie Alano-Reguyal, Alex Reguyal, and Aye Navarro.
Cover photograph by Romy Homillada

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Cover Story

by Ruel S. De Vera

photographs by Romy Homillada

Two Internet startups join forces to redefine life in the city—and become proof that Net dreams can come true

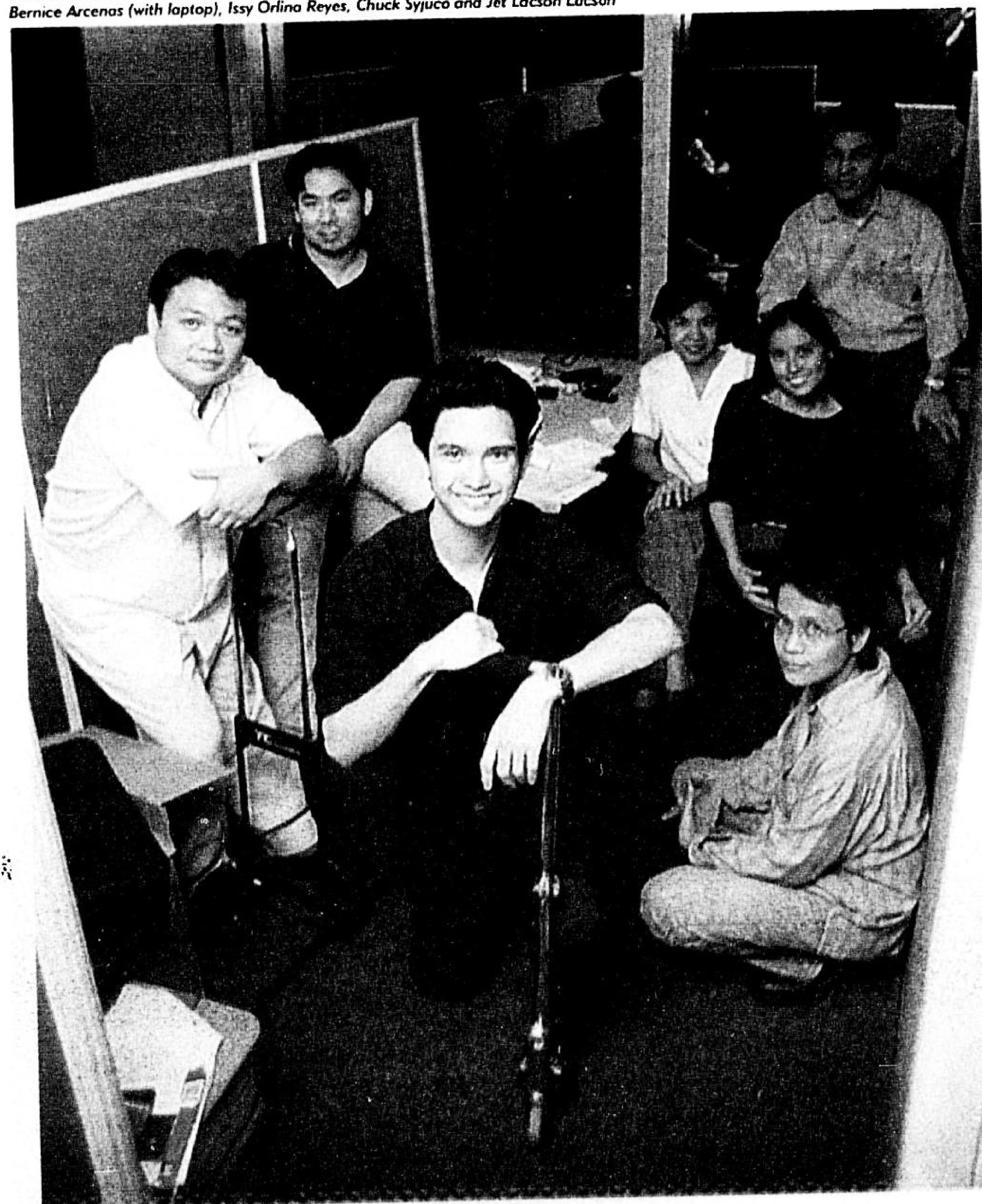
Net Gains

AT A TIME WHEN THE DATELINE, WITH ITS TWO ZEROES, READS LIKE A DIGITAL CODE, THERE MAY BE FEW MORE POTENT BUSINESS BREWS THAN DREAMS AND A FAST MODEM.

> *"The Internet is a new and very, very exciting medium. I think it'll change the world as much as the Gutenberg press did"*

In 1998, two groups of four friends from two adjacent campuses put together a plan to bring the mysteries and magic of Metro Manila to the vast expanse of the World Wide Web. At the University of the Philippines, instructors Trixie Alano-Reguyal, Kimi Tuvera, Issy Orlina Reyes and Carol Hau initially wanted to write a novel together, but eventually decided to put up an online magazine on urban living. It fleshed out an image that Reyes dreamt of one night: "an unfinished flyover, and from the top of the flyover, you could see the entire city." Thus was born LegManila.com, a decidedly literary site that remarked on the good and the bad in the city and boasted pieces from such notable authors as Kerima Polotan (Kimi's mother), Eric Gamalinda and Ninotchka Rosca.

Cubicle crowd: (Clockwise from top left) Aye Navarro, Alex Reguyal, Trixie Alano-Reguyal, Bernice Arcenas (with laptop), Issy Orlina Reyes, Chuck Syjuco and Jet Lacson Lacson



At the other end of Katipunan Avenue, Ateneo schoolmates Bernice Arcenas, Jet Lacson, Aye Navarro and Chuck Syjuco concocted an on-line city guide and magazine. With an explicitly youthful bent towards happenings and events, Localvibe.com sought to be an actual participant in the city's energy. As Navarro said, "We're changing life in Manila."

After two years of launching their respective online invasions on urban life, LegManila and Localvibe mustered their own following and developed a budding rivalry — until they decided to hook up earlier this year. Under the auspices of Singapore-based GetAsia, LegManila and Localvibe merged to form GetAsia Philippines. From their original haunts (LegManila in a Katipunan condo, Localvibe in a Horseshoe Village house), the sites now call the Citibank Tower in Makati home.

At a time when too many Internet ideas go straight from startup to belly-up, the LegManila-Localvibe union is an apparent vindication of the vision and energy these young entrepreneurs put into their online ventures. Sometimes, you can make your Internet dreams come true.

Both sites will continue to appear, with their own unique content, even as the people behind them now work together. For Localvibe and LegManila, this is merely the beginning. In the spirit of their online endeavor, **SIM** chatted via e-mail with the movers and shakers behind this double-click success story.

SIM: Please identify yourself, your age, and what exactly you do.

Trixie: I'm Trixie Alano-Reguyal. I'm 30 years old and I'm the Editor-in-Chief of LegManila.com

Alex: Hi, I'm Alex Reguyal, 34, and the Country Manager of GetAsia.com Philippines.

Chuck: My name is Miguel Syjuco, although everyone calls me Chuck (after Charlie Brown, since I had a bald, round head as a baby). I am the Editor in Chief of Localvibe. I'm 24 years old.

Bernice: Bernice Arcenas, Marketing Manager for GetAsia.com Philippines. I'm 25.

SIM: LegManila began as a dream between four friends in 1998. Do you feel that LegManila became what you initially had in mind?

Trixie: LegManila became a lot more than what we initially had in mind. We had big dreams and a big vision, but LegManila was really a small project. In the beginning, LegManila only had one full-time staff, that's me, working on a workstation at home. Alex worked on programming on the side, and the three other editors all held other full-time jobs and were working on LegManila in their spare time. By the middle of last year, however, Alex realized it had potential, so we rented an office and hired other staff. Since then, LegManila has become part of bigger and more complex operations. It has also given birth to another site, ClickTheCity.com, which has partnered with numerous web sites in the country and won three awards in the recent Philippine Webby Awards.

SIM: We know the story of how the four Ateneans got together

The LegManila-Localvibe union intends to light up the city like never before

and came up with the site and the zine. But did Localvibe succeed in becoming what you had dreamed of when you put it together?

Bernice: I believe so. We came together to build a site which we hoped would provide real value for people – providing up-to-the-minute information about the city in a format that's fun and easy to use. I like to think of Localvibe as the most outgoing buddy in your group, the adventurous one who's always suggesting places in town to eat, shop, watch a movie, to do anything, really.

Chuck: Localvibe has always been successful in being what we dreamt it to be: Metro Manila's city guide. When we first started, we got together because it sounded like an exciting and fun business venture, and we were turned on by the fact that we could possibly make a difference by showing our readers a city where they live but which was oftentimes too foreign to them.

SIM: How did LegManila and Localvibe evolve in the past years?

Trixie: Work on LegManila has been a roller coaster ride — I think the dizzyingly fast and quicksilver changes that we've experienced in our work is unique to the Internet industry. The Internet, by its very nature, is defined by swiftness, changeability, innovation, and a real potential to change lives and society that up to now is still ungraspable and yet everywhere apparent. LegManila, as all Internet companies, is in the middle of this amazing phenomenon.

Chuck: The last two years have been a roller coaster ride indeed — but I do love those roller coaster rides. It's been really earthshaking for all of us. I mean, when you're doing something new and exciting, and when it's an uphill battle, being a small David of a company up against the Goliaths out there, every day is an earthshaking day. Sometimes I still can't believe we got this far!

SIM: Was there some kind of rivalry between Localvibe and LegManila? Any bad blood?

Trixie: LegManila and Localvibe, from the very beginning, have been pitted against each other because both were in the general space of online city guides. But the two, again from the very start, were very different creatures and were really catering to different groups of people.

Chuck: You know, LegManila and Localvibe are actually quite different. Localvibe is a city guide magazine for the active urban lifestyle. LegManila is more an online magazine about Philippine society and culture. I guess because we were really the only real forces to speak of in such similar niches, people would peg us together. But I think it's great for us to be hooking up.

SIM: Worldwide, Internet companies were all the rage for a while, and then the bottom dropped out. Did you experience any such problems?

Trixie: The Internet scene in the Philippines cannot be compared to the Internet industry in the U.S. The two are in different stages of growth. Whatever difficulties we experience are rooted on the fact that the Internet is new in the Philippines and both the infrastructure and content are still in the development stage. However, I still believe that this is the best time to be in this industry in this country.

SIM: Why merge?

Trixie: Why not? ☺ There are obvious synergies between Localvibe and LegManila. And now that we're part of the same company, we're definitely exploring and developing these synergies.

Chuck: Why not? There's so much we can do for Metro Manila and its residents, doesn't it make sense to combine forces and tackle that task together?

Bernice: Because bringing together two local companies that are in the same space but have different areas of talent and expertise makes for a fantastic partnership. Because having a regional parent company like GetAsia makes many of our plans a reality. Why the merger? Because it makes absolute sense for the three companies involved, especially in the current environment.

SIM: Give us a roadmap of the merger. How did the entire thing start?

Alex: GetAsia was really looking for local players in the lifestyle and infotainment space. They looked at a number of web sites and chose Localvibe, LegManila, and ClickTheCity because these sites were the clear leaders in that niche.

SIM: Who or what exactly is GetAsia? What is your relationship with them now and how did it start?

Alex: GetAsia is an Internet company situated in the leisure and infotainment marketplace. The company sees itself as becoming the definitive resource of leisure and entertainment information in Asia, as a network of the most authoritative web sites focused on lifestyle in Asia. It's a big project, a big plan, but we believe we're up to the task.

Trixie: When we merged, it was perfect timing for every one – GetAsia, Localvibe, LegManila, and ClickTheCity. It's a good and solid union because the various sites complement each other.

SIM: Did any of you have apprehensions about the merger?

Bernice: Actually, there's a lot of positive energy and excitement.

Trixie: We're really excited to work with each other.

Chuck: We just wanted to know when we could get started and get things rolling.

SIM: What are your immediate plans and/or hopes for the new company? I believe you're planning to keep separate sites but are you going to share content? How does all that work?

Chuck: Exciting things are happening in the company and to the web sites. But we're still keeping them under wraps, and if I tell you about them, I'll have to kill you. ☺

Alex: We are working on maximizing our resources, getting better synergy out of content sharing that will allow us to further improve our web sites. You can expect to see more exciting new stuff on all GetAsia sites early next year. I'm afraid they're still very confidential, but we will reveal our plans when the time is right.

SIM: What is your vision for the company five or ten years down the line?

Alex: The Internet is ever changing. Five to ten years is a lifetime in this industry. But whatever form or shape this medium takes, our vision is to offer the most innovative and the most useful products and services in the entertainment and lifestyle space.

SIM: How do you all feel about this union? What do you say to people who think that you've sold out because you're no longer going out on your own path?

Alex: We're excited about this union because we're consolidating tremendous talents, energies, and other resources to come up with terrific products and services for Filipino Internet users. The entry of GetAsia will actually help our common dream to become regional players. Moreover, the expertise of the senior management of GetAsia will have great impact on our ability to compete in the market. What GetAsia brings to the table is definitely a depth and strength of management – something that's truly important for an Internet company.

Trixie: Alex, who's heading the Philippine operations, has extensive managerial experience as well, both in the Philippines and the U.S. He was working as a Vice President in Bank of America Headquarters in San Francisco before he came back to the Philippines three years ago to head a local Internet service provider. He has great expertise on the local Internet industry.

SIM: So what then does this merger mean to you?

Chuck: Opportunities. Growth. Combined forces. Remember

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anime cartoons? Volt in? Well, that's what we're doing!
Bernice: It means leveraging each other's strengths and hopefully building a better product together. I also see it as an opportunity to learn from GetAsia's experience, as well as LegManila's.
Trixie: New perspectives, different points of view. I see it as a great learning experience.

SIM: How does it feel to have offices at the Citibank Tower, right smack in the power hub that is the Makati CBD? Do you feel you've arrived, or is it all just starting for you?
Trixie: It's the end of one thing, and the start of another thing. The environment is completely different from what I'm used to, but it's an adventure. I don't really feel we've arrived because a lot of work is ahead of us.
Alex: It's a big change for LegManila itself. But for me, personally, it's a return to a corporate environment, corporate culture.
Chuck: Well, our real office has always been both online and all around the Metropolis, because that's where our work is done. But whether it's our old Lucky Horseshoe Village office, or Citibank Tower, it's always still an adventure that's just started out. The times I feel that we've arrived are when I get letters from pleased Metro residents, homesick Filipinos abroad, foreign visitors, and expats living here—all of them thanking us for doing what we do. That's when I feel we've arrived. It's not about the office at all. It's about the readers.
Bernice: It marks a new, fresh start for all, not a conclusion—it's the beginning of a new journey.

SIM: Your new venture is one of the true bright spots for Philippine Internet endeavors. Do you still believe that the Net's commercial promise remains high, or are you indeed an aberration?
Alex: We're just getting started and we're still definitely chasing the dream. We definitely believe in the strength and promise of the industry. The Internet is a very powerful and empowering medium and we're only beginning to tap its potential. Internet use can only continue to grow in the coming years.

Chuck: The Internet is a new and very very exciting medium. I think it'll change the world as much as the Gutenberg press did. I believe that we are in no way an aberration. I think that we're just a good example that you don't need loads of money and high-powered connections to make it in the Internet world. Again, it's teamwork, dedication, and great ideas that have made us. There is nothing really strange in that formula. ◘

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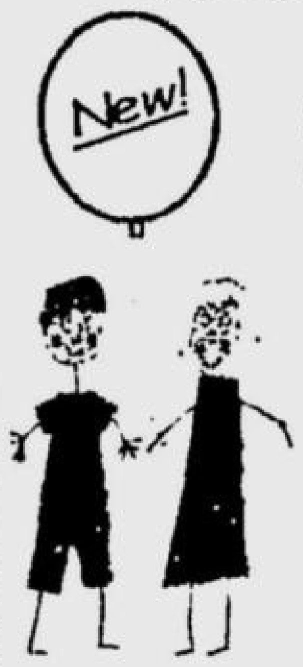

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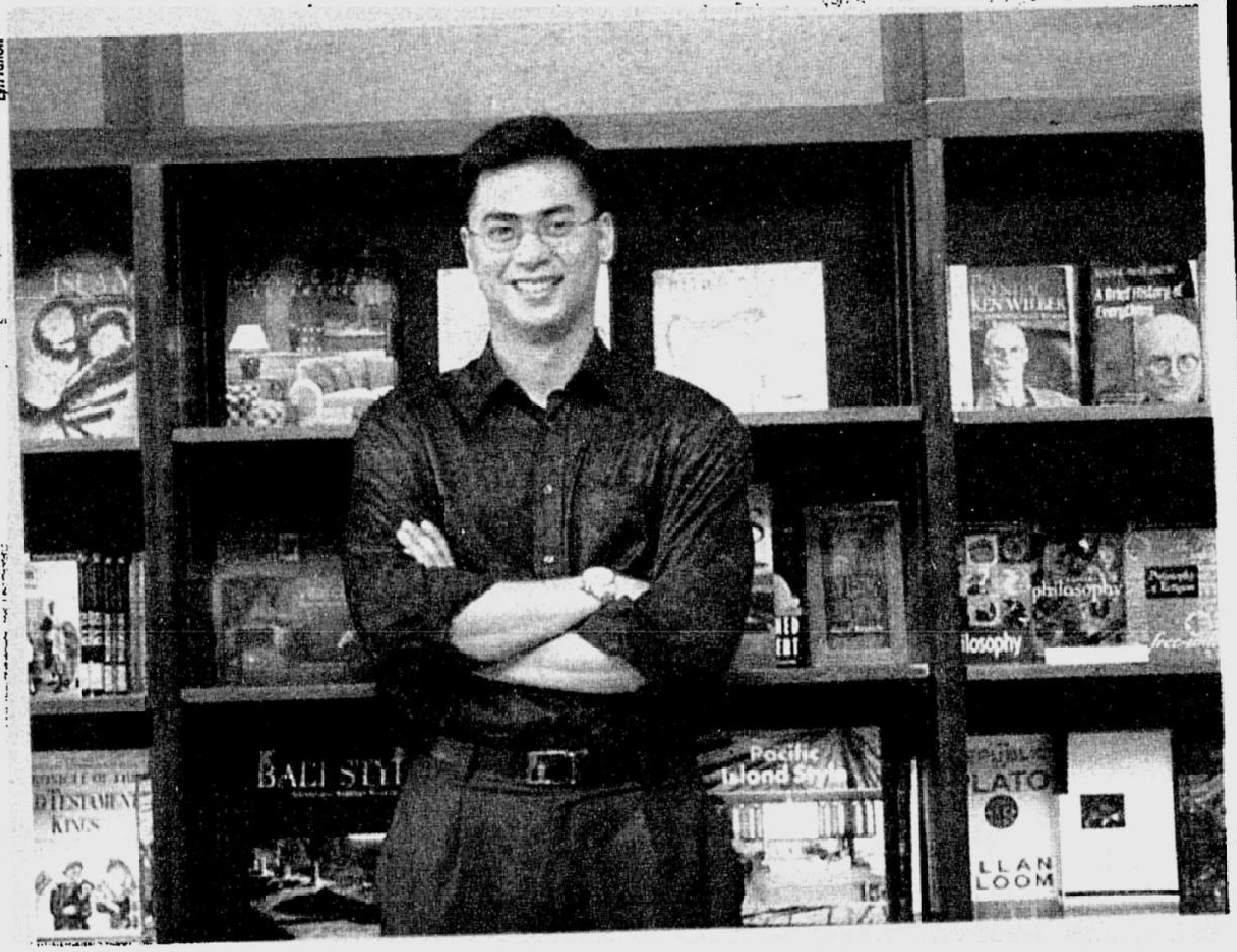
MEMBER PANA Truth in Advertising

His World

by Anton San Diego

JAIME Daez



Lyn Rillon

"I have always been competitive, and I'm a perfectionist"

IT HAS always been hazardous to make pronouncements about people. Although first impressions may work, they are not always true. I meet Jaime Daez at Page One, his newest venture (he also owns Bibliarch) into the world of bookstores. Off the bat, he strikes you as an overly confident man, self-involved, with a tinge of arrogance even. But this good-looking young man may have all the right to be.

We are having coffee at one of the newly opened Italian restos at the Power Plant mall. I remember seeing Jaime at Bibliarch, and writing him off as this *mayabang* person. As he sits across me and talks about his life, I slowly begin to understand him and change my mind.

"I am a guarded person. That's why people think I am arrogant. I will be the first to say that I can be, and it's something that I constantly battle with. I have always been competitive, and I'm a perfectionist."

The biggest turning point in his life came at age 12, when his father passed away. "I realized I had to mature really fast and be independent. Growing up, I had no outlet for opening up to anyone, which I guess affected my way of being with people. That's why I guess I am an introvert. But I don't blame anyone; circumstances and my choices have led me to who I am today. I am in the process of evaluating who I am and learning from life."

Jaime is the youngest in a brood of eight, six boys and two girls. He studied architecture at the Universidad de Navarre in Pamplona, Spain. When he came back to Manila he had to take two more years at UST to be able to get his accreditation and to take the board exams. He has always been a collector of books, particularly on architecture and design. Most of the books he purchased came from Europe and were costly, which made him think of going into direct selling. With a start-up investment of P10,000, his dreams began.

The first branch of Bibliarch opened in April of 1997, and today it has three branches at the Glorietta, Alabang Town Center and Rockwell. When he started he was a one-man show. He had to carry the books and go to offices to sell them. Looking back, he says, "It helped me a lot, because I was the messenger, *kargador*, etc. I know how the operations work, from the most menial job to being the proprietor."

Three years later, the opening of Page One may well be the culmination of his dreams. This 1,100-square meter area of "book bliss" is a franchise based in Singapore. It is located at Rockwell's Power Plant mall, and since its opening has been attracting a buzz for its interiors, service and selection of books.

At age 29, Jaime is not about to sit on his laurels. He would like to open more bookstores in the future. I ask him what else is missing in his life. He ponders the thought that he is the only one in his family who is not married. "Love," he laughs. "I would love to settle down, and am still looking for the right woman."

Where are you in your life right now? "Hopefully, just at the beginning of a long road to happiness."

This is His World.

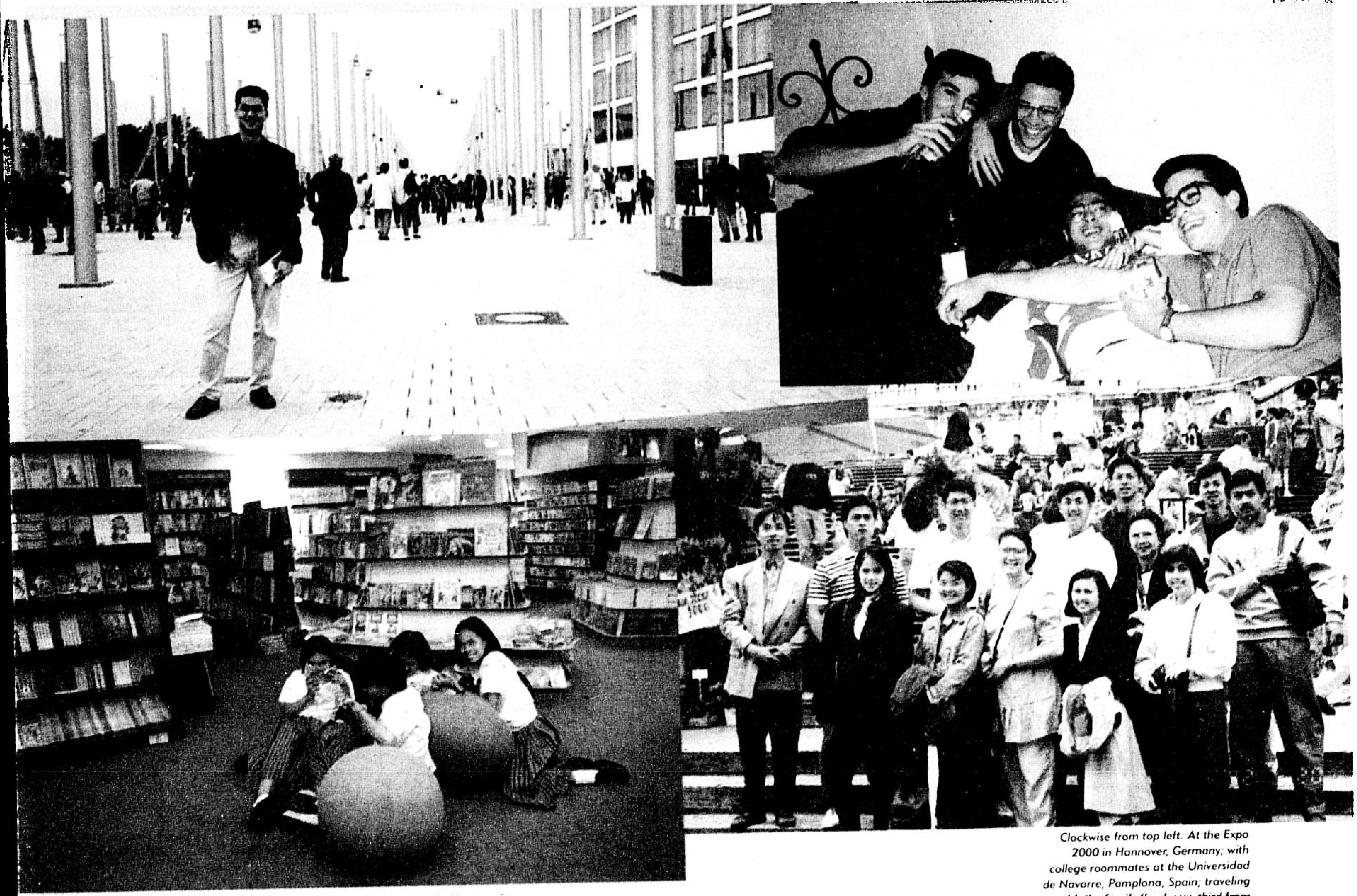
Morning ritual?
I log on to my laptop upon getting up and check my e-mail in bed, while having the TV switched on to CNBC

What will you never do?
Wear contact lenses

Favorite reading material?
For magazines: "Gramophone" and "What Hi-Fi"; comic books written by Neil Gaiman, Alan Moore or Frank Miller

Where is your favorite place to read?
In bed!

Greatest extravagance?
CDs, especially of classical music



Clockwise from top left: At the Expo 2000 in Hannover, Germany; with college roommates at the Universidad de Navarre, Pamplona, Spain; traveling *with the family (back row, third from right) in Rome; the welcoming interiors at Page One*

Define earthly happiness.
Being at peace with oneself and one's surroundings

First ambition when you were young?
To be with Farrah Fawcett!

Favorite memory as a child?
Going to Magnolia Ice Cream Parlor along Aurora Blvd., having two servings of Blueberry Parfait, and charging it to the suitors of my older sisters.

What's the best thing your parents taught you?
Not to be arrogant.

Greatest fears?
Only one: hell

Define success.
On a professional level, doing something one loves doing, and excelling at it.

If you could go back in time 10 years ago, what would you advise yourself to do or not do?
I would put all my money in shares of Microsoft. I prefer not to regret what I've done in the past, so I wouldn't change anything

What are the weaknesses that you fall prey to?
Being overly independent

Who would you like to be?
Mozart

Favorite spot on earth?
Prague and Salzburg

What's one thing that you don't have that you wish you had?
Someone special to spend the rest of my life with

What upsets you?
Silly mistakes caused by lack of common sense

Who/what inspires you?
Classical music; exploring new countries

What's a trait you deplore in yourself/others?
Myself: Pride; being too critical
Others: People who are plastic; hypocrisy

If I were President, I would....
Not be caught in an impeachment process! Clean up the whole system, Lee Kuan Yew style.

How do you overcome obstacles and problems in life?
I am a very spiritual person, I have strong faith. It makes me see things objectively.

An event in your life that has taught you an important lesson?
The death of my dad

The greatest teaching you have learned so far from life?
One cannot be happy without God in their life.

For comments, please e-mail asd_world@hotmail.com

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Full coverage up to age 80!

Guarantee No. 6
The cash benefits will never go down as you get older!

Guarantee No. 7
The premiums will never go up as you get older.

Guarantee No. 8
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60-64	134.95	268.95	537.95	1,075.95
65-69	171.95	342.95	685.95	1,371.95
70-75	219.95	438.95	878.95	1,757.95

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Whatever you expect in the future, the likelihood of being hospitalized is worth preparing for now. Illnesses and accidents simply happen, and usually when you least expect them.

Because of this, we urge you to enroll for this generous coverage today.

Our HOTLINE numbers are available for your questions.

If you have any questions at all about the PrimeCARE Cash Plan, we encourage you to call our hotlines: **812-4406, 815-0170, 816-0604, 812-9457, 814-0793 or our Toll Free No. 1-800-1-888-5433**, 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. weekdays. You may look for any of our direct marketing representatives.

HOW TO ENROLL!

1. Look at the chart to determine the monthly premium according to the plan desired.
2. Complete the Enrollment Form. Be sure all questions are answered.
3. Sign and date the Enrollment Form. Remember, you should be the one to sign the form.
4. Clip the completed form and mail it to:

   PRIMECARE CASH PLAN
   MANILA BANKERS LIFE INSURANCE CORP.
   12th FLR. TMBC BLDG. AYALA AVE, MAKATI CITY
5. Remember, send no money now! Just mail the enrollment form now. Don't forget to xerox an extra application. Why not act now!

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☐ *NO*. I am not interested at the moment. However, I am happy to receive promotional mailings from you. (Please fill-out Name, Address, Date of Birth and Age)

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Full Name Mr. Mrs. Ms. ____________________
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____________________ Tel. No./Fax __________
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E-mail ____________________ Cell No. __________

Date of Birth ____________________ Place of Birth __________

Age ______ ☐ Male ☐ Female Height ______ Weight ______

Occupation/Profession ____________________

Company ____________________ Tel. No./Fax __________

Please check the Plan you require:

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Applicant's Signature ✓ ____________________ Date __________
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NO HEALTH QUESTIONS TO ANSWER...

Young Achievers

by Joy Rojas

Zagu's Genevieve Lim shook up the country with her pearl shakes. Now, a year, a website, and several bad rumors later, it's still bottoms up for the best-selling drink

Gold in Black Pearls

Bobot Meru

LIKE THE COUNTLESS CUSTOMERS WHO DON'T MIND WAITING IN LINE FOR THEIR DAILY PEARL SHAKE FIX, 26-YEAR-OLD ZAGU PRESIDENT AND GENERAL MANAGER GENEVIEVE LIM COULDN'T GET ENOUGH OF BUBBLE TEA WHEN SHE WAS STUDYING FOOD SCIENCE IN VANCOUVER, CANADA. SERVED HOT OR COLD AT TEA BARS, THE REFRESHING DRINK WITH "BLACK PEARLS"—YAM AND TAPIOCA BALLS SIMILAR TO THE CHEWY *GULAMAN AT SAGO*—WHETTED BOTH HER APPETITE AND IMAGINATION.

A few adjustments here and there (she ice-blended her drink, did away with the tea, kept the flavors, and enhanced the sweetness) and the drink debuted in Philippine shores, specifically at an A. Mabini road stall in San Juan in April 1999.

Business was slow at the start. "People thought it was similar to those drinks being sold by street vendors," recalls Genevieve of the shake she christened Zagu, the hip pronunciation of the local tapioca balls. "They just couldn't visualize it."

Things changed in a major way, however, when she passed out free samples of what turned out to be an addictive drink. The pearl shakes sold like pancakes and the rest, as they say, is history.

Franchising explains the almost instant expansion. To date, there are some 90 franchisees nationwide

Make that history in the making. One year after its launch, Zagu has become a national phenomenon, with over a hundred stalls spread out from Nueva Ecija to Davao. Franchising, a venture that Genevieve offered on her seventh month of operations, explains the almost instant expansion. To date, there are an estimated 90 franchisees, a handful of them opening up multiple Zagu stalls. Hard times and the healthy competition haven't stopped other aspiring entrepreneurs from investing close to a quarter of a million pesos on a Zagu stand and pearl shake supplies. Meanwhile, the avalanche of inquiries continues: the Zagu office receives at least a hundred new calls daily about the business, with a sizable number expressing interest on a franchise by filling up the form found on the company's official website, www.zagushakes.com

"It's funny but sometimes when you look at the franchisees, you wonder, gosh, do these people still need the money?" marvels Genevieve. "Some of them can even buy me out, so I don't know why they want to franchise Zagu! Because big businesses are really suffering, people want to get into this, which is kind of `liquid' in some way."

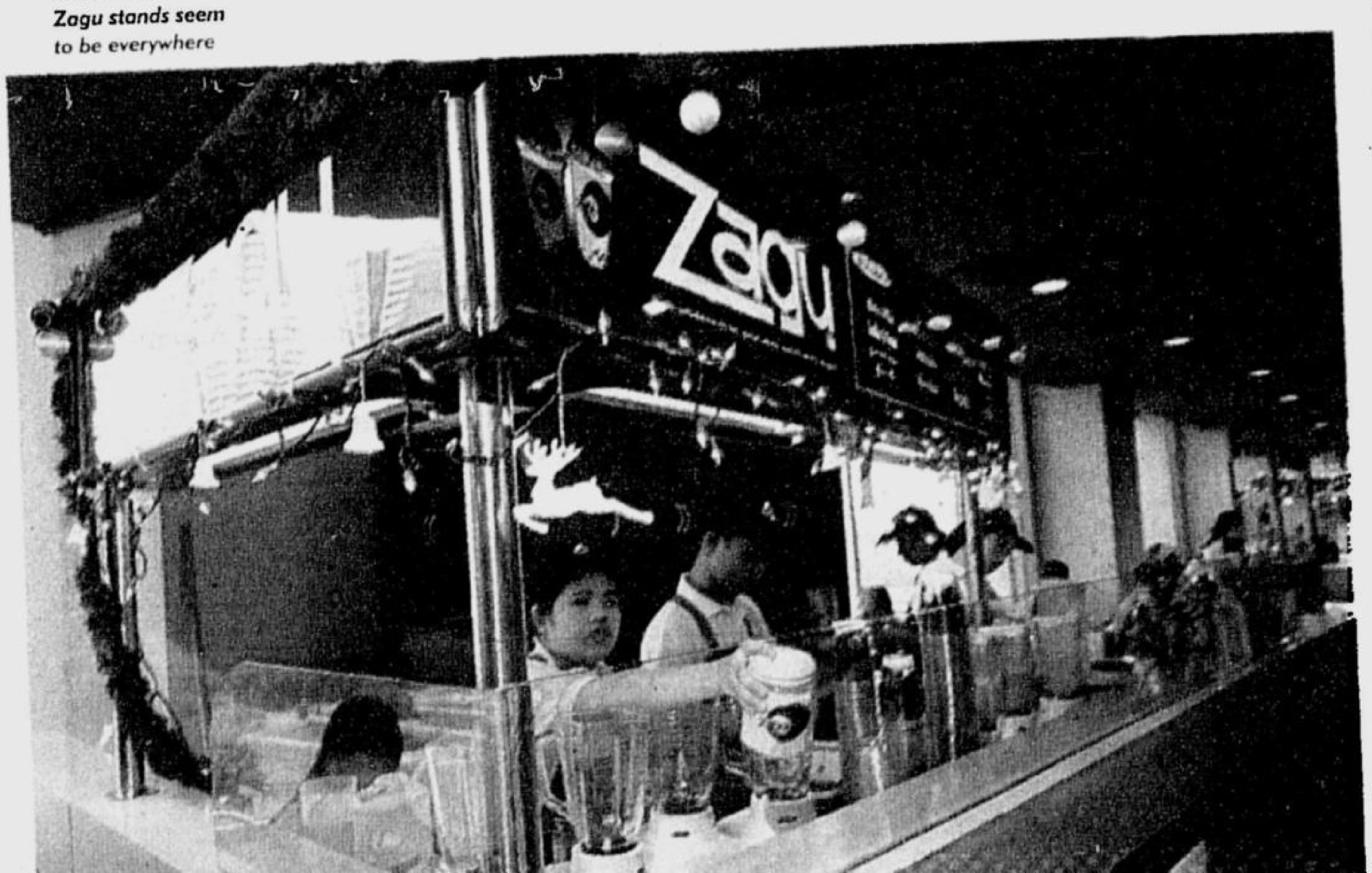
Liquid is right. Thanks to other bustling Zagu stalls, one housewife earns more than her executive husband does. After trying his luck in four businesses, a man finally hit the jackpot when he kept his money in a Zagu stand. Genevieve's favorite success story is about this top franchisee, a fresh college graduate, who temporarily shelved plans of getting her master's degree to concentrate on selling pearl shakes.

Despite the economic crunch, Zagu's prices haven't changed: it's still P20 for a small glass, P30 for a regular glass and P35 for a tall, thirst-quenching glass. The company's strong business policy remains constant as well. "Quality over profit," states Genevieve succinctly. "Dedication and the willingness to learn. And you have to love the product. Most of our franchisees are regular customers who enjoy the drink so much they want to be a part of it."

Of course, success hasn't always been this sweet for the pioneer pearl shake. Some months ago, Zagu became the subject of newspaper headlines and text messages because it allegedly uses a host of inappropriate ingredients, among them the fatal formaldehyde. Instead of leaving a bad taste in people's mouths, the rumor died a natural death, and the lines at Zagu stretched out even longer. "Instead of hitting us, I think they should credit us for bringing the *palengke* and street *sago* to a higher level," says Zagu consultant Ricardo Villacrucis. "We use clean water and clean ice and our cups are always new and sanitary. We're globally competitive."

Having hurdled that short-lived scare, it appears that Zagu can conquer just about anything—including the world. These days, Genevieve is seriously considering the idea of introducing a growing range of flavors (including the soon-to-be released sugar-free line), the black pearls, and the latest Zagu add-on, white coconut cubes called "crystals," to the foreign market. Vancouver's Bubble Tea now takes a backseat to the drink that pleases Genevieve's discriminating palate no end: A grande serving of Zagu Café Latte.

Oasis at the mall: Zagu stands seem to be everywhere



by Elen S. Pomarejo

Love moves in mysterious ways, even on the Net!

Once More for E-Love

illustration by Jess Abrera

I MET MY FIANCÉ ON THE NET. I WASN'T LOOKING FOR A BOYFRIEND NOR FOR THAT MATTER, A HUSBAND, WHEN I SAW RAIN'S AD ON A FRIENDSHIP CLUB WEBSITE. I NO LONGER RECALL THE NAME OF THAT WEBSITE, AND NEITHER DOES HE. ALL I CAN REMEMBER ARE THE SIMPLE WORDS "JUST LOOKING FOR SOMEONE TO TALK TO," WITH NO VITAL STATISTICS TO FANTASIZE ABOUT.

I started it off with an unassuming introductory letter. Because I was heavily interested in the Vietnam War, I chose that country where I eventually found his name. I assumed he was Southeast Asian. I thought perhaps I could befriend an intellectual Vietnamese whose passions in life were music and films.

I regarded it as a literary exercise. I thought he could be my shock absorber, someone who could occasionally relieve me of the pressures of my job and my humdrum life. I could talk about my personal hang-ups and angst with this stranger without fear or prejudice because he didn't know me personally and

To page 15

First comes love, then comes marriage: The author, at right, and her (no longer virtual) fiance

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Dr. Brush performs a "spinal adjustment" on the neck of a patient suffering from chronic migraine and neck pain by restoring the spinal bones to their proper motion and position. The adjustment relieves the patient from numbness, tingling and other body pains.

Dr. Ronn Mitchell, founder of UNCC, stated, "what was once considered an alternative method of treatment has become one of the most trusted, effective, and sought-after means of treatment for muscular-skeletal disorders of the spine." All UNCC chiropractors are U.S.-licensed and have treated many difficult cases in the U.S. and in the Philippines.

Business Watch

by Cora Llamas

The manager of one of the region's most dynamic online recruitment sites is betting that the industry will keep growing despite the economic crisis

Wired for Work

Lyn Rillon

Catane Riding the IT wave

NEW GRADUATE GIBSON V. SIGNED THE DOTTED LINE WITH A MULTINATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMPANY TWO DAYS BEFORE RECEIVING HIS DIPLOMA. GELA I. PUT HER COMMUNICATION ARTS COURSES TO CORPORATE USE A FEW DAYS AFTER LOGGING ON TO A JOB SITE. THIRTYSOMETHING FREELANCE WRITER OLIVIA L. RECEIVED AN OFFER FROM A THAILAND-BASED WEB COMPANY WITHOUT EVEN APPLYING FOR THE JOB.

With the New Economy speeding up everything from corporations to virtual communities in the Information Highway, the once tedious, time-consuming task of job-hunting has become faster, cheaper and international. Type in your resume online only once. Send it to several companies within minutes. Save your CV in the job databank or send e-mail applications to foreign companies, and you just might find yourself working overseas.

As people become more comfortable with the Net, it will become normal for them to find jobs online

"Because of the New Economy, more and more workers are becoming mobile," says Raymond Catane, general manager of JobsDB Phils (www.jobsdb.com, click "Philippines"). "Not just in choice of jobs, but also in choice of locations. An Internet recruitment site allows a job seeker a lot of flexibility in finding the jobs of his choice. He becomes more pro-active in making his resume visible to the job market, locally and internationally.

"Recruitment is a global activity," Catane emphasizes. "The mobility of workers across geography is more evident. Especially for positions and professions—like I.T. and engineering—that are global in scope."

Filipino talent, especially in those industries, is sought after in high-tech, low-unemployment countries like the US, Singapore and Hong Kong. "We're in the radar screens of a lot of these companies based abroad," says Catane. "Our culture is adaptable. Filipinos are known to be very hardworking. Our work ethic and communication skills give us an edge."

The observation is made first-hand. Only a couple of years after graduation, Catane assisted in the implementation of I.T. infrastructure in a Chicago steel company. He also underwent training in systems analysis and mainframe programming. This intense brush with technology left a long-lasting impact. "I was fascinated by it. I wanted to ride this wave wherever it took me."

Surprisingly, the tides of a world being connected by wires and computers brought him back home. "I could have stayed in the US. But a friend told me, 'Don't be a slave to the world and limited to a particular geography or system. Being a professional, you should be in this industry wherever it takes you, whether it's the US or the Philippines.'"

In the Philippines, the Business Administration graduate combined his technological savvy and marketing and sales expertise, swiftly climbing up the ranks in several software and I.T. companies. He eventually landed one of the industry's top posts: the senior manager of Microsoft Philippines' Enterprise and Consulting Groups, handling its big-time conglomerate accounts.

Sometime later, when college buddy and JobsDB's local partner Edwin Coseteng asked him to head the new net recruitment start-up, he didn't have second thoughts. "The Internet was the next I.T. wave, and I wanted to work in a Net site that has a global character."

JobsDB currently has 11 branches internationally. A registered member can easily send his resume to job vacancy ads posted by companies in several countries. Not a few Filipinos have obtained white-collar jobs in Singapore and the Middle East through the site.

The very first step in on-line job-hunting, though, starts by filling out an electronic resume. JobsDB's takes a few minutes to complete, taking into account education, job history, skills and aptitudes, and career goals.

Looking for jobs online can be done three ways: click by industry; choose via companies; or simply type out the position you have in mind and click "Search."

Not surprisingly, most of JobsDB's users are new graduates or young professionals in their 20s to early 30s. "They're more savvy in using the Internet and have lower barriers to resistance in using our service, against older people who don't have much time to surf the Internet."

And the next generation sometimes just can't wait to log on. Catane's little boy, almost-two-years-old Ramon Lorenzo, already handles the computer mouse like a pro and spends a lot of his waking hours watching multimedia-based learning tools for toddlers. The family is practically anchored in the industry. Catane's spouse, Ireen, is the country manager for small and medium businesses for computer giant Hewlett-Packard.

There's no going back as far as the high-tech industries are concerned. Maybe that's why, despite the economic crisis and the threat of rising unemployment, JobsDB's general manager remains hopeful. Current projections cite that the industry will continue to grow "not at a linear rate, but exponentially over the next three to five years. As people become more comfortable with the Net, it will become normal for them to find jobs online.

"Recruitment IS a necessity in all businesses. It is ongoing even in a country experiencing high-labor unemployment problems. The difference lies in where the shift will take place. Some industries will have slower recruitment, others will still grow."

Finally, Net recruitment may be fast, but it carries no magic formula. Catane reminds young job seekers, "The best help that you can get from us is the guarantee of an interview. Landing a job is still dependent on your abilities, experience, and the potential you bring to the company."

The Writer's Life

by Theresa Bonoan

Illustration by Carlos Celdran

Or how one veteran magazine editor and writer is taking her talents into the brave new world of electronic media

From Verbal to Virtual

I WALK THROUGH THE AISLES OF METRO AND CHALK AS THE EDITORS SCURRY ABOUT IN WHAT SEEMS TO BE A PERPETUAL MAGAZINE DEADLINE, AND I GLOAT OPENLY (SUBTLETY IS NEVER NECESSARY). NO MORE WORKING TILL DAWN FOR ME, EATING SOMEONE ELSE'S COLD AND SOGGY FRIED FOOD LEFTOVERS, NO MORE FRANTIC SEARCHES FOR MISSING TRANSPARENCIES OR TANTRUMS OVER LAME WRITER'S EXCUSES, NO MORE TALK OF COLOR SEPARATION AND THE RIDICULOUS COST OF PAPER. INSTEAD, I'VE OPTED FOR HTML CODE AND DATABASES, BETA TESTING AND INTERACTIVITY, AND MANY OTHER THINGS CLOAKED IN TECHNICAL GIBBERISH. IT'S NOT CALLED EDITORIAL ANYMORE, IT'S NOW CONTENT. CONTENT, INDEED. YOU COULDN'T DRAG ME BACK TO PRINT.

I can't remember when exactly the conversion happened but it was only some nine months ago. I had agreed to consult with a medical web site that I now refuse to name, to help them create an editorial system and to organize their existing content. While sifting through articles on *Chlamydia* and *Retinitis Pigmentosa*, I began to understand the architecture of a web site, to see how what seems to be a myriad of perplexing elements creates a medium of incredible flexibility and immediacy. It was no longer about the two-dimensionality of words and pictures, but about how to elicit a quick response and to offer enough choices to cater to that response and thus keep the process going.

Content is a function of seduction and manipulation. To succeed, your web site has to be pretty, it has to be smart, it has to be organized, and it has to be fresh. The industry word of choice is dynamic. The worst thing that can be said about a site is that it's static, a print magazine saving on printing costs. To be dynamic despite the unwieldy technology that underpins the Net takes foresight and resourcefulness.

Or so I think. I will admit to being quite untested in this field. My one previous experience in site development (for the aforementioned health site) was never launched. I am currently redeveloping the Metro and Chalk sites and they won't be up until mid-February, though their prototypes are (http://www.metromagazine.com.ph and http://www.pinoycentral.com/img/chalk.nsf/index?readform). I could be talking out my ass, but I am absolutely sure (my friends will attest to the immutability of my ego) that I can put my not inconsiderable editorial experience to good content use.

In an industry best described as in its pioneer stage (if Gutenberg really invented the printing press, then we're talking being over 500 years behind the print business) in a country barely industrial, the limitations I and my ilk face are endless.

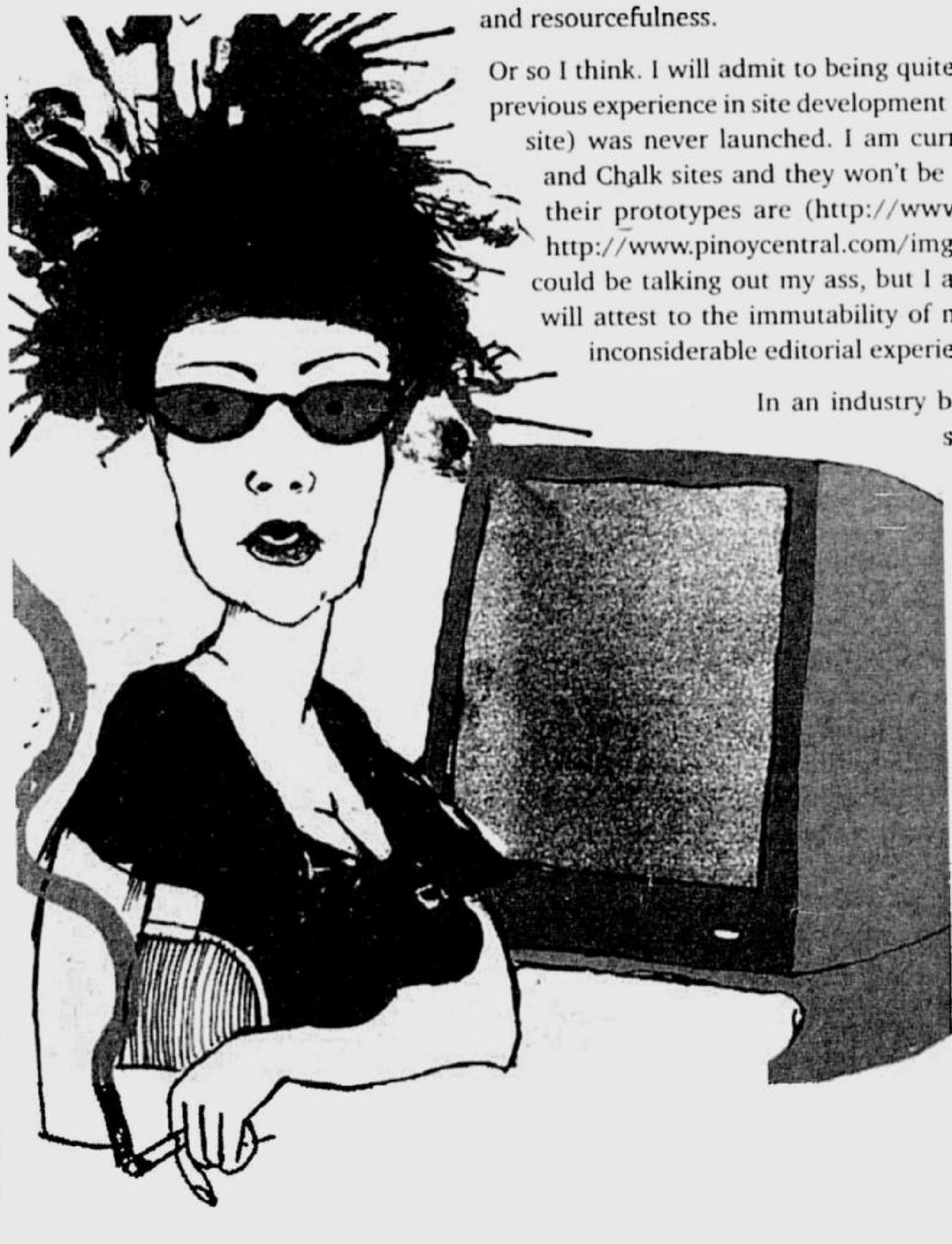


Illustration by Carlos Celdran

Let's start with the size of the market. Best estimates place the number of users at about two million, and more than half of them access the Internet at work, which makes surfing lifestyle sites an illicit practice at best. The spread of Internet cafés helps but it also ensures that the main audience remains young, aspirational, comfortable with technology, with even more leisure time than disposable income to spare. Let's not even discuss attention span. They form a desirable market, no doubt, but try explaining the Internet to advertising and marketing people who don't even get cable in their homes. I'm glad the challenges of marketing a web site are not directly mine, but it is still my job to make the most marketable web site possible.

Narrow bandwidth, crappy dial-up service, costly access, and other infrastructure problems also keep market growth at bay. The dismal economic climate does have its bright side in that the crisis that precipitated it has attracted greater numbers to the web in search of news, insight, humor, and ways to participate. So long as their needs are met in fresh ways, they will come back. Immediacy is crucial. Pounce or be trounced.

The infrastructure problems also cause the visual limitations of web design. If you project that the normal Pinoy computer with Internet access is not very fast, then there's very little you can do about using large photos, animation, or any of the other template-size-gobbling elements that are also surefire audience draws. So you look towards developing tools and services designed to become indispensable to the user, but there is a still a fine balancing act that needs to be made in appealing to the current technologically-savvy market without alienating the novices.

The ultimate limitation is actually what captivates me the most. The Internet is the most quantifiable medium; there is no arguing with hits, page views, and user sessions. This unassailability can make fuzzy math, to quote the new American president, of editorial direction. Failure is concrete, validation tangible. Response determines direction, and the prospect of calibrating content until it is fine-tuned to my specific audiences is a happy one.

Content, perhaps, but never complacent. I know I will read this again in a year and go, "Damn, I knew nothing." There is a vast landscape of possibilities that I'm yet to explore, with the time, resources, and mandate to do it. Talk to me again next year. Or better yet, don't wait that long. Check out the sites now and then, and I'll show you content!

THE AUTHOR's business card says Content Master for ABS-CBN Publishing Inc. but she is variably referred to as interactive editor, site producer, and web mistress of the dark. Her magazine editorial experience spans from the old Details magazine in New York to the forward Folio magazine (the first six issues only, please), with a dip in Mega in between.

End Page

by Jonathan Best

Mamma and His Ten Wives

Men envied this rich Moslem gentleman his freedom to choose his playmates, while women were enthralled by his apparent sexual prowess

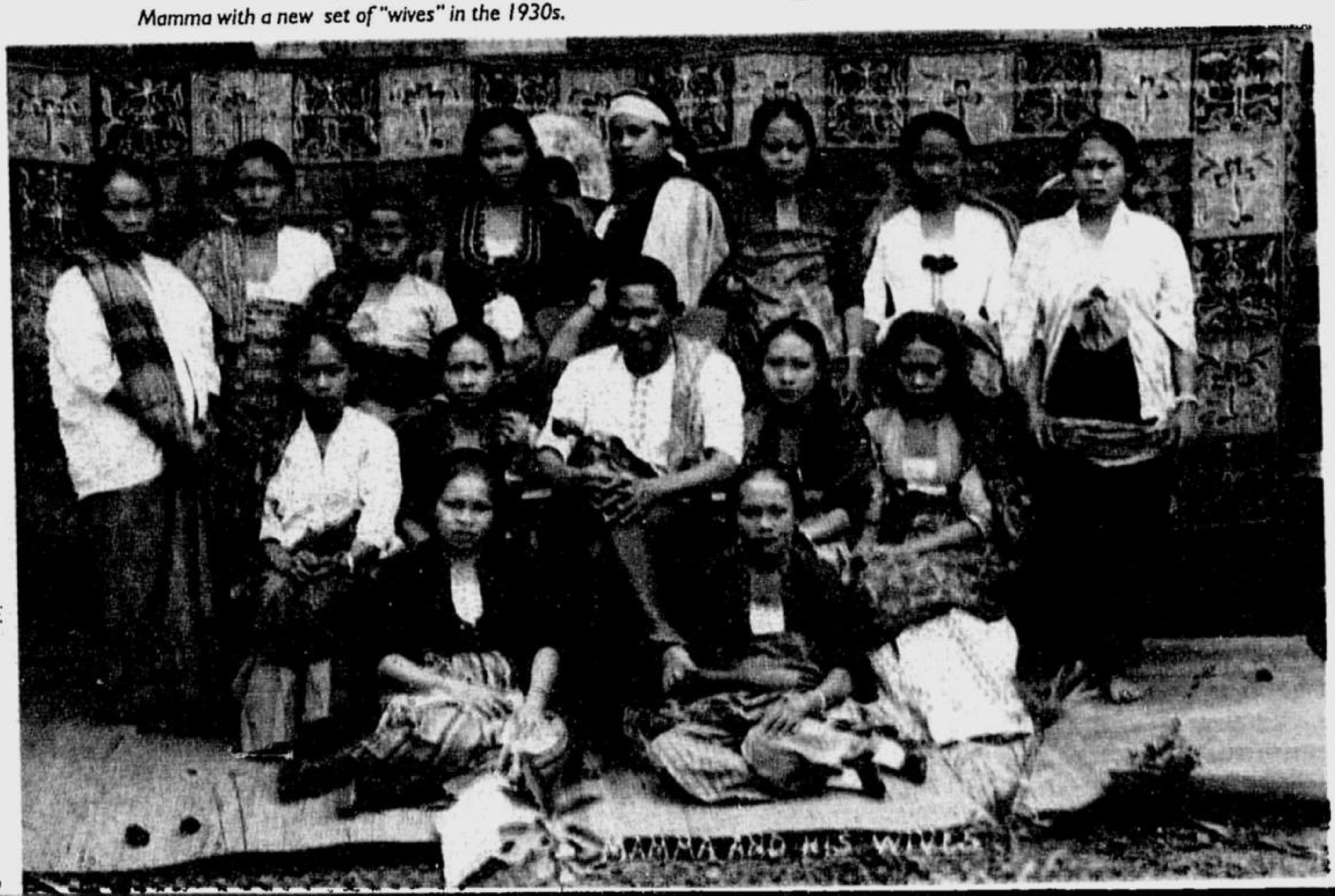
MINDANAO AND THE SULU SEA WERE RELATIVELY PEACEFUL IN THE 1920S AND '30S. CRUISE SHIPS BROUGHT BOTH FOREIGN AND LOCAL VISITORS TO ZAMBOANGA AND JOLO IN SEARCH OF EXOTIC SIGHTS, SUBLIME VIEWS AND UNUSUAL SOUVENIRS. THOMAS COOK AND AMERICAN EXPRESS PROMOTED MINDANAO AS AN INTERESTING AND SAFE TOURIST DESTINATION. BY 1935 AMERICAN EXPRESS WENT SO FAR AS TO DESCRIBE JOLO AS "EXTREMELY PICTURESQUE AND FANTASTICALLY LOVELY" DESPITE THE LIMITED CHOICE OF A SINGLE GUESTHOUSE FOR ACCOMMODATIONS.

Along with the beautiful scenery, tropical flowers and South Sea pearls, one of the exotic sights that attracted tourists to Jolo was a rich Moslem gentleman named Mamma. He welcomed visitors to his home and proudly showed off his 10 wives and numerous offspring. He posed for snapshots and even sold postcards of himself and his burgeoning family. In 1928, British artist Agnes Keith stopped in Jolo for several weeks to sketch. She described Mamma as a handsome fellow who spent most of his time supervising his wives at their various tasks.

In a photo from his younger years in the early 1920s, Mamma appears with exactly 10 wives. Their clothes are fairly simple, cotton *malongs* with a plain white cotton bodice. Two of the older wives have gray hair and one appears blind in one eye, which confirms Keith's description of Mamma's first and oldest wife. In a photograph taken several years later, the wives have increased to 14 and curiously, they all appear younger and prettier than the first lot. The women wear fine silk *malongs* with embroidered bodice and jackets embellished with what appear to be double rows of gold buttons. Mamma himself is grinning ear to ear, sporting skintight silk pants, a beautiful shirt and a ceremonial kris mounted in a scabbard stuck in his belt.

One has to wonder whether Mamma in fact divorced his old wives and added new ones, or if some of the so-called "wives" were just for show to tourists. Although polygamy was legal in the Moro provinces even under the American administration, it was not widespread and was carefully regulated by religious law. A Moslem man needed the permission of his first wife to take a second, and any of the wives could file for divorce if they were neglected or abused.

Mamma with a new set of "wives" in the 1930s.



Mamma and his wives, whether real or a set-up for tourists, fascinated and titillated Christian Filipinos and prudish Americans. Men envied Mamma's freedom to pick and choose his playmates while women were enthralled by his apparent sexual prowess. In the 1920s, conventional Christian morality still insisted on one sex partner for life although few Christian men actually followed this severe injunction. A visit to Mamma's *seraglio* (harem) would have appealed to the more adventurous and sexually liberated tourists of the 1920s and 1930s. For them he was seen as something of a naughty sexual renegade.

In actuality Mamma was something of a holdout from pre-Spanish culture. Before Christian missionaries came to the Philippines in the 16th century, Filipino men from different ethnic groups were free to have more than one wife and marry and divorce as they wished. Numerous well cared-for wives, lovers and children brought a man prestige and honor and reflected his success in life. These values can still be found in "macho" male sub-cultures here and abroad.

Polygamy and extended families were customary for thousands of years within patriarchal societies where women and children were considered the property of men. It has become outmoded in recent centuries in Europe and America as democratic values have evolved and women have become emancipated. The social revolutions of the 18th and 19th centuries with their strong emphasis on personal freedom and universal human rights did away with societies dominated by old patriarchs and their brood of countless children.

Most of the modern world has now adopted a relaxed attitude toward sex while maintaining a system of monogamous marriages. This is tempered by sensible divorce laws if the marriage fails for whatever reason. Greater attention is now given to the welfare of children and not to the so-called "God-given" rights of men over women. Mamma and his 10 wives must have been an amusing tourist attraction in the 1920s, but even then he was something of an old dinosaur on the way to extinction.

The problem for contemporary society with this type of man is not so much his sexual hedonism but his egotistical procreation, despite the fact that family planning is now a simple matter in most countries. Morality may no longer demand lifelong fidelity to one partner but it does demand that a man be responsible, caring and emotionally supportive to each of his children. No amount of wealth or power can substitute for the kind of personal attention required for successful parenting. Too many wives or too many children simply make this an impossible task.

Comments welcome, <endpage2000@hotmail.com>

FIRST from page 11

he lived a few thousand miles away.

I answered his ad in September 1999. Three weeks later, on October 14, I got a response. And surprise, surprise! The Vietnamese turned out to be Viennese. But I wasn't impressed when I found out that my cyber friend is a 32-year-old, bespectacled, German-speaking European working as a supervisor in a steel trading company and renting a flat in Vienna. Though he could express himself in English well, he sounded arrogant in his first letter. But that didn't stop me. He became a challenge.

His interest in Southeast Asia was not news to me. Most Caucasians are fascinated with the tropics where beaches reign supreme. And he's one of them. He asked for my help because he was traveling to Borneo and Thailand after Christmas and New Year. While he e-mailed me his day-to-day adventures in Southeast Asia, I wrote about my cough, my mother's health, and the latest news about the Estrada administration.

It was not until after his Asian vacation that we started a regular e-mail correspondence. I began to feel something going on and consulted my friends who advised me to enjoy the feeling but to be wary as well. Our initial conversation topics ranged from our grandparents to our childhood, families, education, jobs, music, and Austria's real participation in World War II. I found this side of him very interesting. Later, I discovered that he's into Henry Miller, Tom Waits, the Mahavishnu Orchestra, Egon Schiele and the blues. He could speak French, too, but that was just icing on the cake.

Up until that time, we were hardly interested in each other's personal affairs. Then he suggested exchanging pictures. He received my photograph on Feb. 22. I got his on March 8. I received no acknowledgement from him for three days and wondered if the snobbery meant he didn't like the way I look or that he was afraid I didn't like his. Hurt, I wrote to thank him for his time and effort in writing me and sending his picture. I got his prompt reply the following day, and this became the turning point of our relationship.

I was vague for three days, neither confirming nor denying my feelings for him. I was afraid. I had second thoughts about the relationship and secretly conditioned myself to think that this nice man could someday turn into a beast. Finding a sincere interracial relationship, I told myself, was only an illusion created by cyberspace!

But I was more afraid to lose him and his virtual companionship. So we became "virtually on" in April, just in time for his birthday. As a token of my affection, I gave him a copy of Karen Kunawicz's book and the first-ever love letter I've written in my life. Our weekly e-mail exchange increased to two e-mails a day (sometimes four!). When my service provider warned me to delete some messages because my account might explode, we became dependent on phone calls (which was not so great because of the bills), SMS (although when the SMS sites crashed, my messages couldn't reach him on time) and the Easycall website (where he could page me).

Finally, we saw each other on August 5 this year. The original plan was to meet in October in Manila but I became impatient and asked him to come early. It seemed the most natural thing to do, like meeting an old friend. Not surprisingly, on the day we first met, we were both at ease. He stayed in Manila for three weeks.

Marriage was brought up after he met my family. He proposed and I said yes, though some well-meaning friends disagreed with our hasty decision. Why the rush, they said, saying I'm still young and had so much to give up, including my job. Besides our culture and language are very different. Above all, they warned, we didn't know each other well enough. Rain knew this and suggested that I visit Vienna for a few days. It proved to be the right timing. I celebrated my birthday there in October, met his mother and best friends and got to feel how it is to live in Vienna, even for just a few days.

I felt sad that I had to return to Manila after 12 days. But today, I nurture the comforting thought that on my next trip to Vienna, I'd be staying for good. The waiting game will be over.

THE WRITER, 27, is our very own editorial assistant here at SIM. She was cringing while she wrote this story (probably under duress), while "Un bel di" *kept playing in her mind.*

Poetry

Autumn in Michigan

How strange for Hemingway
to find Michigan in Paris;
in a corner café, orphaned at noon,
Michigan a continent away,
a shadow growing vivid;

The resurrected elms
of his childhood,
the held-breath
at the deer's slow advance;
its soundless step betrayed
by a stray twig's crack, the crunch
of leaves parched by the fruitlessness
of season.

It is the autumn in Michigan,
He writes.
In Paris, it is winter.

And the days are slow
as sap, finding its own
corrugated path down
An elm.

So slow
You can raise a rifle
To your head
Thinking of all you've
Lost.

And further down
The cobble-stoned way,
Something rustic in the air.

A deer disappears
at the road's turn,
easy and soundless
into the foliage.

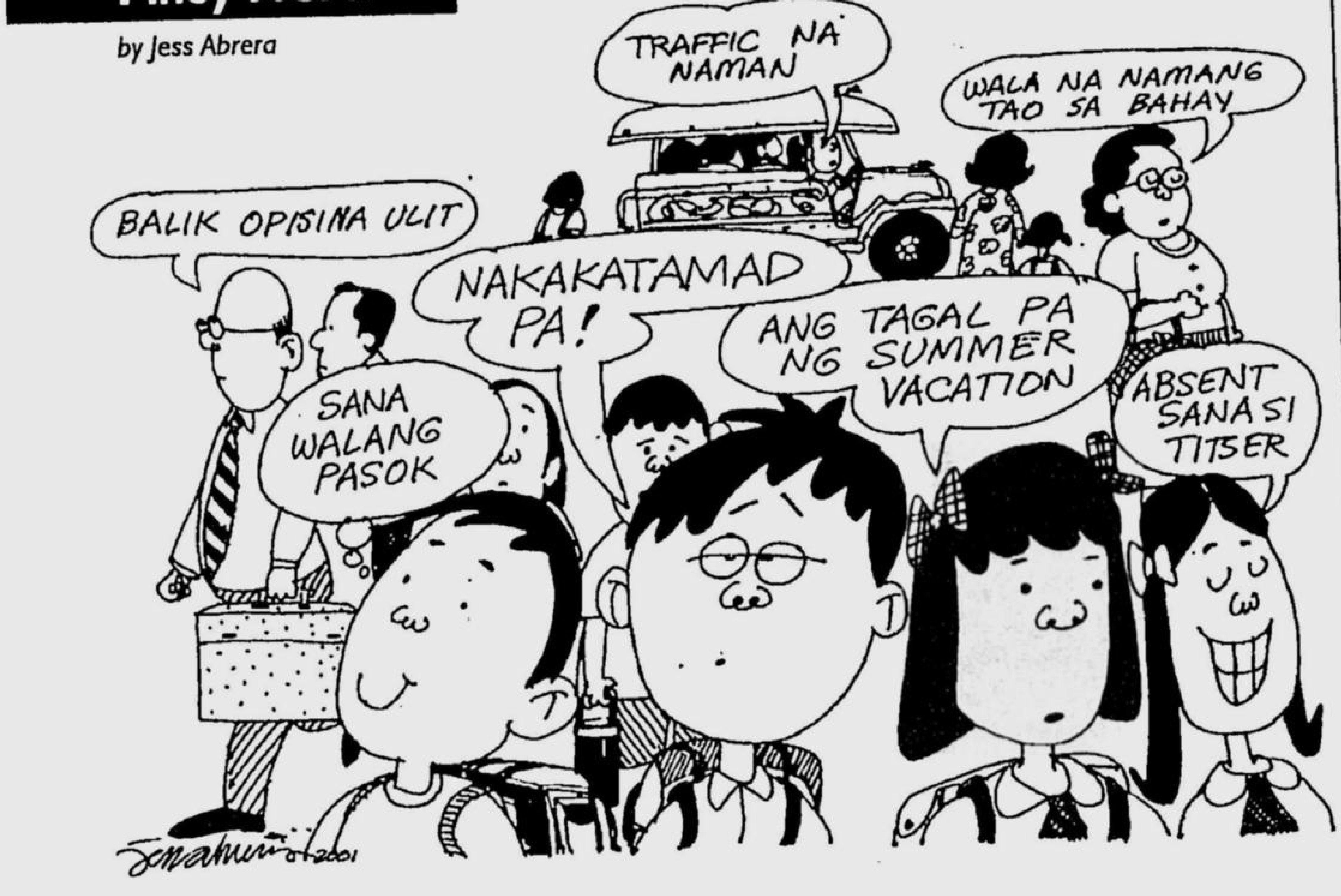
Mookie Katigbak

The Sunday Inquirer Magazine is accepting contributions for our regular poetry section. Interested contributors should send a printed a copy of the poem (which may be in English or Filipino) together with a self-addressed stamped envelope to Ruel S. De Vera, poetry editor, Sunday Inquirer Magazine, Chino Roces (formerly Pasong Tamo) corner Mascardo and Yague Streets, Makati City 1263, or e-mail to <sim@inquirer.com.ph>

Pinoy NGA!

Pasukan na Naman

by Jess Abrera



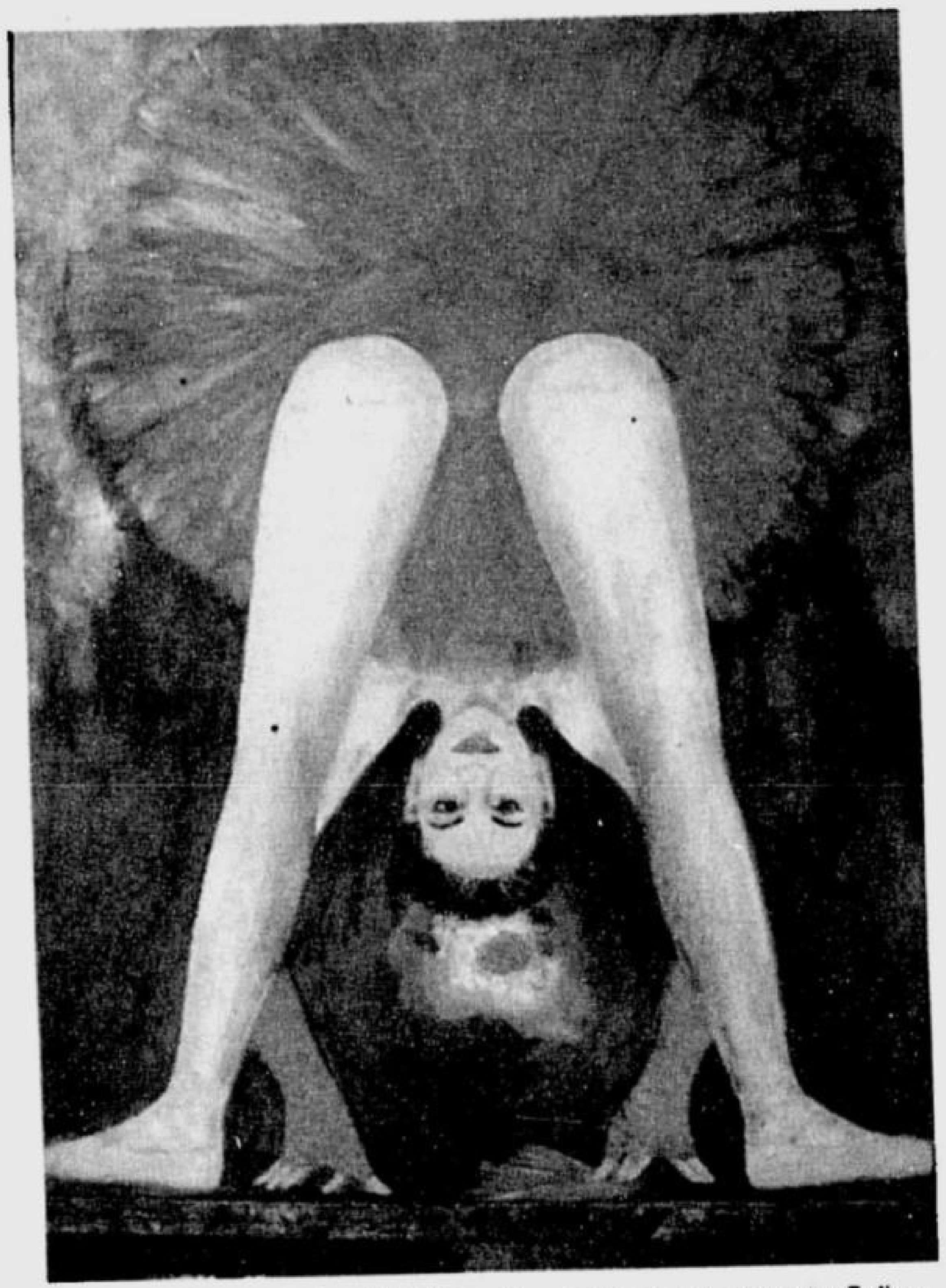
This Week

Art

Group Photo, exhibit by Bahaghari, at the Big Sky Mind ((66B Doña Juana Rodriguez St., New Manila, Quezon City). Opens Jan. 14. For details, call 414-7451.

Crafts and Weapons: A Homecoming for the St. Louis Exposition 1904, exhibit of 500 artifacts from the St. Louis Expedition 1904, at the National Museum (633 General Luna St., Intramuros, Manila). Till next month. For details, call 527-1215/19.

Ligaya, exhibit by Juvenal Sanso, at the Art Center (4/L, SM Megamall A, Edsa, Mandaluyong City). Till Jan. 21. For details, call 634-2410/11.



Dehlia Nery Napay-Rebustillo's "Tango" and other works, at the Art Gallery of the Albay Provincial Capitol, Bicol, till Feb. 2

Latin American Shots, exhibit of award-winning Latin American photos in the last edition of "*Premios Internacionales de Periodismo Rey de España*," at the Sala de Actos, Instituto Cervantes (2515 Leon Guinto cor. Estrada Sts., Malate, Manila). Till Jan. 25.

Siglo Ikalabinsiyam **(19th Century)**, an exhibit featuring portraits, *tipos del pais*, landscape paintings and *letras y figuras* by Filipino masters, at the Metropolitan Museum (Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, Roxas Boulevard, Manila). Till this month. For booking of group tours, call 523-7855.

Karl Aguila exhibits his 15 small-scale sculptures, at Espace (Room 306, Windsor Tower, 163 Legaspi St., Legaspi Village, Makati City). Till Jan. 20, 2001. For details, call 867-2537.

Alay 4, a group exhibit by artists whose careers started with Boston Gallery (72 Boston St., Cubao, QC). Includes Elmer Borlongan, Plet Bolipata, Kiko Escora. Till Jan. 11. For details, call 722-9205.

Full Circle, exhibit by Vivian N. Limpin at Likha-Diwa sa Gulod (1 Lt. J. Francisco St., Krus na Ligas, QC, near UP Diliman campus). Till this month. For inquiries, call 433-4641.

Two Years of Art, an exhibition of small works by artists who had shows at the Blind Tiger Bar and Gallery (13 Visayas Avenue, near DENR). Till Jan. 12. For details, call 928-1158/60.

Arturo Luz exhibits his recent works at the Luz Gallery (Locsin Building corner Ayala and Makati Avenues, Makati City). Till Jan. 16.

Sheer Realities: Clothing and Power in 19th-century Philippines, an exhibit of carefully selected Philippine clothing ensembles for men and women, at the Metropolitan Museum of Manila (Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, Roxas Boulevard, Manila). Till Feb. 3. For details, call 521-1517.

Music

Two new music videos from the Jesuit Communications Foundation: "One More Gift," written by Fr. Manoling Francisco, SJ, and performed by Ariel Rivera; and "Hesus ng Aking Buhay," composed by Bro. Arnel Aquino, SJ, and sung by Vincent Martin Pinpin. Distributed commercially by BMG Pilipinas Inc. For details, call the Jesuit Communications Foundation, 426-5971/5926.

For this week's bands and schedules call:

- Formula Sports Café (638-5547/48)
- '70s Bistro: 46 Anonas St., QC (922-0492)
- Hobbit House: 1801 Mabini St., Malate, Manila (521-7604)
- Strumm's: El Pueblo, Ortigas (637-3009)

Onstage

Miss Saigon, onstage until March next year at the CCP Main Theater (Tanghalang Nicanor Abelardo, Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City). For details, call 891-5610, 635-6976/78, 522-7414, 922-1740, 433-2226/2184, 521-3166 to 80 locals 166 and 170.

Film

Instituto Cervantes (2515 Leon Guinto cor. Estrada Sts., Malate, Manila) presents *La vida segun Muriel* (1997), Jan. 11, and *La primera noche de mi vida* (1998), Jan. 18, at Instituto's Sala de Actos, 7:30 p.m. *La vida segun Muriel*, based on the novel by Susana Silvestre, tells the story of Laura, who is abandoned by her husband. *La primera noche de mi vida* is directed by Miguel Albaladejo. With English subtitles. Free admission on a first-come-first-served basis. For details, call 526-1482 to 85.

Atbpa

Garden Extravaganza, Health, Sports and Home Updates Fair. Orchids, bonsai trees, ornamental plants, garden implements and tools will be showcased at low prices from Jan. 12 to Feb 9 at the Greenhills Shopping Center. Also to be showcased are appliances as well as handicrafts, electronics and kitchenware.

Slovenia International Reward Competition Now Open. The National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA) International Desk accepts artwork entries. The competition is open to those under 20 years old. Artworks must focus on the theme "Castles—The Cultural Heritage," and must refer to castles, palaces or manor houses as buildings and residences of kings and nobles. Deadline is March 1 and entries must be sent to Likovni Svet—The World of Art Draga 31, SI-3230 Store, Slovenia. For details, call 527-2175/92 local 605, or email info@ncca.gov.ph

Playwriting Contest 2000. Writers may submit their full length scripts (consisting of two or more acts), written either in Filipino or English. The material may deal with any subject matter. Deadline for submission of entries is Jan. 31. Announcement of winners on March 1. Entries must be submitted to Wings Entertainment, 994-I Paris St., Leon Guinto, Malate, Manila 1004 or c/o Paragon, G/F, ChemPhil Bldg., 851 Arnaiz Avenue (Pasay Road), Makati City.

Visit **www.rds.com.ph** and get a load of what's hot and new at Robinsons Department Store. Be informed of the latest fashion finds and get a chance to join exciting in-store and online promotional activities. Be one of the first 100 visitors to answer the website's survey and get a copy of the RDS 2001 calendar free. Plus get a chance to win one of three Motorola M30 Globe prepaid cellphone kits to be raffled off on January 2001.

Instituto Cervantes with the Embassy of Spain invites the public for the awarding of prizes for the ***Segundo Premio de Periodismo Instituto Cervantes de Manila***, with the theme "The significance of Spanish as an international language, as well as its special interest for Filipinos" on Jan. 26. Visit Instituto at 2515 Leon Guinto cor. Estrada Sts., Malate, Manila. For details, call 526-1482 to 85.

German Cultural Center presents **German language courses** for the first trimester 2001, Jan. 8-April 8, 2001: German 1-5, Mittelstufe (intermediate level) and Oberstufe (advanced level). Enrolment is at 687 Aurora Boulevard, New Manila, Quezon City, until Jan. 14; fee is P3,000 and textbook fees are P740. For details, call 722-4671 to 73.

Japanese language courses are now being offered at the Nihonggo Center Foundation, R. Papa Campus (3/F, Philippines-Japan Friendship Center, 825 R. Papa St., U-Belt, Sampaloc, Manila). For details, call 735-3179, 892-4916 to 19.

Peasants, Merchants, Politicians in Tobacco Production by Patricia Torres Mejia has just been released by the Ateneo de Manila University Press. It's also available in other major bookstores.

Myths and Legends of the Philippines, published by Jacoby Publishing House and distributed by Anvil Publishing Inc, is now available at all bookstores. This is Marlene Aguilar-Pollard's third book.

Tahanan Shop will have its new store at 28-C Scout Tuason (near Roces Avenue, Tomas Morato and Max's Fried Chicken). The new store will carry the same products like food, architectural materials, books and furniture. For details, call 374-6564, 635-7354 to 55.

2001 PBBY Illustrator's Prize The Philippine Board on Books for Young people invites all illustrators, professional or amateur, to join. All entries must be original and based on the PBBY Salanga Writer's Prize winner "*Bakit Matagal ang Sundo Ko?*" by Frances Kristine V. Canon. Copies of her story as well as the contest rules are available at PBBY Secretariat 73-A Scout Limbaga St., Barangay Laging Handa, QC. Adarna House will publish the illustrations in storybook form. Awarding date is on July 17, 2001. For details, call 372-3548/49.

Food

The French Baker offers soft cinnamon squares and rolls, brownie squares and Danish pastries, ideal for family and friends. It also serves the French Baker Classic Fruitcake. These are available at all French Baker's 22 outlets in Metro Manila and Cebu.

X-manila

@ seventy, a dancer's show in oil, exhibit by Dehlia Nery-Napay Rebustillo, at the Art Gallery of the Albay Provincial Capitol. Till Feb. 2. A part of the proceeds will be donated toward the completion of Our Lady of Guadalupe Church in Lidong, Polangui, Albay.

Bintana, exhibit by Margo Rae Medina, at the Waterfront Hotel (Cebu City). Till Jan. 17, 2001. For details, call (032) 232-6888.

Yaring Kamay **3**, a craft exhibit-sale at the Sanctuary Gallery (Maryknoll, Campo Sioco, Baguio City). Till Jan. 12, 2001. Features crafts include weaving, leathercraft, stoneware, needlework, woodcraft, basketry and handmade paper craft. For details, call 442-4602/4926.

The Sunday Inquirer Magazine welcomes listings of events in and outside Metro Manila. Please send announcements at least two weeks in advance, and include contact numbers for inquiries on schedules and tickets. You can reach us by e-mail at sim@inquirer.com.ph or by fax at 897-4811.